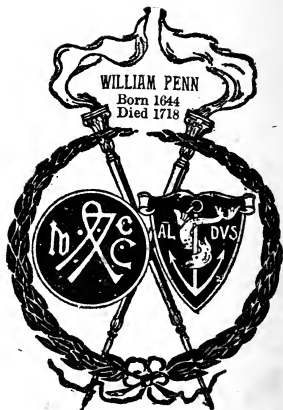


SOME FRUITS  
OF SOLITUDE



WILLIAM PENN











**SOME FRUITS**  
*of*  
**Solitude**



*William*  
*Penn ~*

**H.M. Caldwell Co.**  
**New York and Boston.**

*Copyright, 1903*

BY H. M. CALDWELL CO.



## Introduction

THIS little "Enchiridion," as its author called it, this compendium of cheerful rules for the conduct of life, has become so completely forgotten that London was scoured for a long time in vain before a copy could be found on which to base the present essay. Yet it was once, and for a long time continued to be, among the most popular of books. During the eighteenth century, it was seldom out of print, and abundant editions of it in the British Museum testify to the solace which its fortifying maxims supplied to generation after generation of

## ✻ Introduction

men and women. Oddly enough, it was in the year when its century of existence was rounded off—in 1793—that its latest regular reissue occurred, but even in the nineteenth century it was printed several times. Now, however, the poppy seemed to be finally scattered over its pages, and “Some Fruits of Solitude” to have been gathered to the storehouse of oblivion, when an enchanter has come, and wakened the delicate dead thing into life.

The publication of Robert Louis Stevenson’s “Letters” has revealed the fact that he was a warm admirer of the “Fruits of Solitude.” He met with the little book at a critical moment of his own career, in December, 1879, while he was wandering discon-

## Introduction ❧

solately in the streets of San Francisco, convalescent after a very dangerous illness, yet "still somewhat of a mossy ruin," and doubtful in what spirit to face the world again. To the exile, with his hopes reëxcited, his spirits grown buoyant, his moral fibres tightened by hardship and fear, the small book of Penn's maxims came with what seemed a direct message from heaven. Stevenson was singularly moved by the "Fruits of Solitude," which he picked up ignorantly on the stall of a San Francisco *bouquiniste*, and the depth of his emotion was proved by its durability. Two years afterwards he gave that particular copy of the book to Mr. Horatio F. Brown, with these words : —

"If ever in all my 'human conduct'

## ✻ Introduction

I have done a better thing to any fellow creature than handing on to you this sweet, dignified, and wholesome book, I know I shall hear of it on the last day. To write a book like this were impossible; at least one can hand it on, with a wrench, one to another. My wife cries out and my own heart misgives me, but still — here it is.”

And in a later letter to the same friend: —

“I hope, if you get thus far, you will know what an invaluable present I have made you. Even the copy was dear to me, printed in the colony that Penn established, and carried in my pocket all about the San Francisco streets, read in street-cars and ferry-boats, when I was sick unto death, and found in all times and places a peaceful

## Introduction ❀

and sweet companion. But I hope, when you shall have reached this note, my gift will not have been in vain; for while, just now, we are so busy and intelligent, there is not the man living — no, nor recently dead — that could put, with so lovely a spirit, so much honest, kind wisdom into words.”

Stevenson had intended to make this book and its author the subject of one of his critical essays. In February, 1880, he was preparing to begin it. But the sickness unto death, of which he speaks in the letter above quoted, turned his thoughts in other directions. In April of the same year, he is still “waiting for Penn,” but the great changes in his fortune and duty, of which we know, immediately intervened, and carried him off to other

latitudes and other work. He never found the opportunity to discourse to us about the book which he loved so much. But it has left an indelible stamp on the tenor of his moral writings. The philosophy of R. L. S., as revealed to us from 1879 onwards, is tinged through and through with the honest, shrewd, and genial maxims of Penn. Courage and common-sense, a determination to win an honourable discharge in the bankrupt business of human life, a cheerfulness in facing responsibility, — these were qualities which Stevenson possessed already, but in which he was marvellously strengthened by commerce with “Some Fruits of Solitude.” So the little Quakerish volume has a double claim upon us, — for itself, so clean and sensible and

## Introduction ❧

manly a treatise, and for its illustrious student and "sedulous ape," our admirable R. L. S.

That "Some Fruits of Solitude" was written by William Penn has never, so far as I know, been doubted, and there seems no reason to question the fact. As, however, the bibliographical authorities attribute the little book to Penn as confidently as though he had publicly owned it, it seems fair to say that there is little or no external evidence of his authorship. The first edition, which was licensed on the 24th of May, 1693, is anonymous, and so are all the subsequent reprints until quite modern times. It was not until 1718, and after the first part had been many times reissued, that the "More Fruits of Solitude," which has ever

since been treated as a continuation by the same hand, made its earliest appearance. But it would almost seem as though there were evidence as to Penn's authorship of this latter, which did not exist as to the former, since the editor of Penn's "Select Works," in 1771, says that the title "More Fruits" shows that there was "a former work of the same nature." It does so, of course; but how came the editor of 1771 to make so strange a remark, if he had the double work before him? Finally, there was printed as lately as 1875 the following maxim, said to have been discovered written on a plain half-sheet of paper: —

"He is a wise and a good man, too, that knows his original and end; and



## Introduction ❧

answers it by a life that is adequate and corresponds therewith. There is no creature fallen so much below this as man; and that will augment his trouble in the day of account, — for he is an accountable creature. I pray God his Maker to awaken him to a just consideration thereof, that he may find forgiveness of God, his Maker and Judge.

WM. PENN.”

This is exactly in the manner of “More Fruits,” for which it is difficult to believe that it was not written, and may be taken as an important evidence of the authorship of that book. In 1726 was published a work of Penn’s, called “Fruits of a Father’s Love,” which had a certain likeness in subject to the little volumes here re-

printed; this was described as "The advice of William Penn to his children, relating to their civil and religious conduct." It was often reprinted, and from 1790 onwards usually appears bound up with the "Fruits of Solitude." There is even another treatise, bearing the same title, "Fruits of a Father's Love," and opening with the words, "My dear Wife and Children," whereas that first published in 1726 begins "My dear Children." These works and their tangled bibliography need not, however, detain us, for they are totally distinct from the subject of the present reprint. There are several French translations of the latter, but they throw no light on the question of authorship.

It is, finally, to be remarked that

## Introduction ❀

very considerable differences exist between the text as printed in 1693 and onwards, and that substituted in 1718. The earliest editions are full of positive blunders and misprints, and contain substantially less matter than what is now the standard text. The fact that the latter appears in the year when "More Fruits" was first given to the public, leads us to suppose that both were printed in 1718 from a revised MS. of the author's. In the present reprint it is the text of 1718, not of 1693, which is given.

If we turn to the book itself, we find not very much which can aid us in conjecturing the exact date of its composition. It must have been written between 1665, before which date Penn cannot have seen the "Ré-

flexions et Maximes," and 1693, when the volume was licensed. The author blesses God for his retirement. He has been forcibly withdrawn from the world, and never had so much leisure in all his life before. He reviews his career and admits that he has been lavish of his time. He does not consider that he has "been the worst or the idlest man in the world, nor is he the oldest." William Penn, born on the 14th of October, 1644, was still in his forty-ninth year when "Some Fruits of Solitude" was licensed. He had enjoyed a large number of forced opportunities of retirement; he had languished in quite a number of celebrated gaols. An enumeration of these opportunities may be worth giving. Penn went to prison for a

## Introduction ❀

few days in 1667, for publicly professing himself a Quaker. For publishing his attack on the Athanasian Creed, — “A Sandy Foundation shaken,” — he was committed to the Tower from December, 1668, to July, 1669. There he wrote not only his celebrated arraignment of “hat-honour” in the shape of the once popular treatise, called “No Cross, No Crown,” but three other controversial pamphlets. There was neither time nor temper on that occasion for optimistic maxims upon the conduct of life. In September, 1670, Penn was committed to Newgate “for speaking in Gracechurch Street,” as a friendly jury persisted in putting it, but he was released a few days later. Finally, in February, 1671, he was arrested while

addressing a Quakers' meeting in Wheeler Street, and was thrown into prison again, this time for six months. Here was an opportunity for writing maxims, and yet I do not believe that the tempestuous young man, who was only twenty-seven still, was ripe enough to form such grave and serene reflections as fill the "Fruits of Solitude."

During the reign of James II., as every one knows, William Penn enjoyed an extreme, and it must be admitted a somewhat equivocal popularity at court. The king allowed no interference with the foibles of his eccentric Quaker friend, and he confirmed him in the vast and vague seignury of Pennsylvania. Penn indulged in no enforced retirement during the reign of James II. But when

## Introduction ❀

the Stuart fell, and particularly later, after the Battle of Beechey Head, the exiled king's close friend was not unnaturally suspected of holding correspondence with him, and it became discreet for Penn to disappear for a while. There was a warrant out against him, and he was almost captured as he returned (January 16, 1690) from George Fox's funeral; but he escaped, and for several months he continued in hiding. Nor was he perfectly reinstated until after his appearance before William III. in Council in the autumn of 1693. Here, then, as I believe, we have the approximate date of these little treatises, written, not in the agitated vicissitudes of Penn's fiery youth, but in his advanced middle life; not in prison, but

in the Sussex homestead to which he noiselessly withdrew after the apparition of the French Fleet in the Channel in 1690.

The form of "Some Fruits of Solitude" is wholly due to the influence of La Rochefoucauld's famous compendium of sentences, the vogue of which was at its height in England when Penn wrote. Even the title of Penn's work closely imitates that of his French model, since what are "Réflexions ou Sentences et Maximes Morales" in La Rochefoucauld become "Reflections and Maxims relating to Conduct" in his English follower. The movement in France towards the production of short, bright sentences, each containing one idea, and each individually effective in its keenness and conciseness, had



## Introduction ❧

reached a climax soon after the English Restoration. There had grown up in France a feeling that the phrase must be reduced to simplicity of shape, must be relieved of its parenthetical flaps and appendages, and must produce a sharp and precise effect. Madame de Sablé and Jacques Esprit had laid down the form of the maxim, but it needed genius, it needed the extraordinary art and wit of the great Duke of La Rochefoucauld, to bring the new conception to the birth in a perfectly finished and current shape. His "Maximes," after having been pirated at Amsterdam in 1664, found their proper issue in Paris in 1665, and they became at once the model of all sententious and oracular aphorisms.

It was in England that La Roche-

foucauld's influence was more instantly felt than anywhere else out of France. The "Maximes" contributed greatly to the formation of an improved English taste, and to a final breaking up of the lumbering construction of the national prose, with its coiled, interminable sentences. In 1670, too, came, in France, the "Pensées" of Pascal, in 1687 the "Caractères" of La Bruyère; here in London people of quality and temperament might converse with the epigrammatic Saint Evremond. All these influences were more or less fairly at work on William Penn, when he wrote "The Fruits of Solitude." But, if we are right in supposing that this took place in the early years of the reign of William III., it is curious to note that at the

## Introduction ❧

very same time a scholar of La Rochefoucauld still closer than Penn was writing *Maxims*; this was Halifax, whose "Thoughts and Reflections," though not printed until 1750, were certainly composed between 1690 and 1695. But Penn is as far removed from Halifax as Halifax from their common model. La Rochefoucauld is the very living spirit of negative and sarcastic wit. In his lapidary art malignity is the polishing powder which completes the work. In that of Halifax common sense reigns supreme, the trimming skill of the perfect man of the world, without illusion, without malice. But in that of Penn all is absolute rose-colour, and we may be allowed to fear that La Rochefoucauld would have hastened to repudiate a

## ✻ Introduction

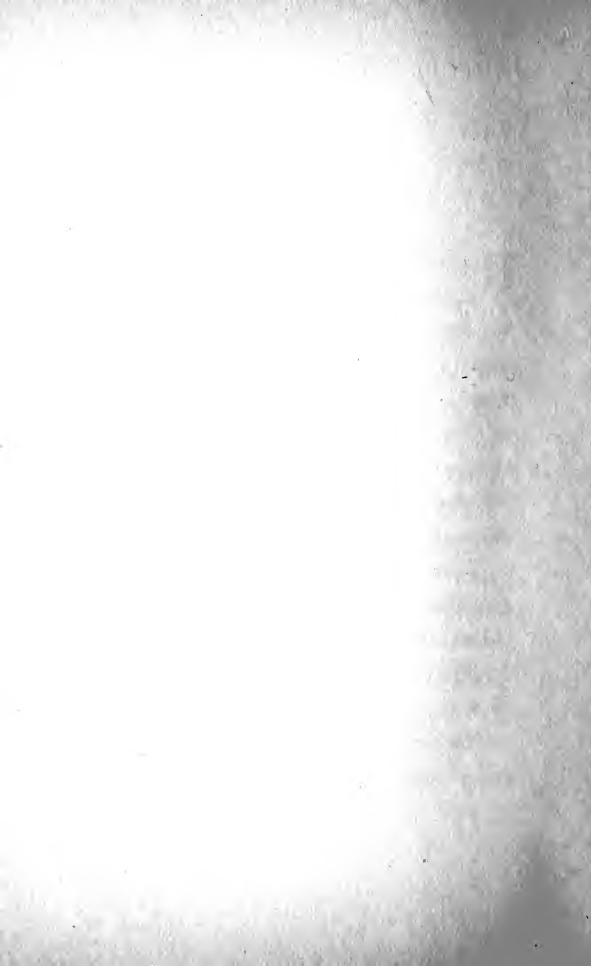
disciple who had learned so little of the hollowness and bitterness of life.

For life was not bitter to Penn. He combats the cynical attitude throughout. His heart is on his sleeve; he will take you aside, although he sees you for the first time, and tell you everything. Nothing is more amusing than Penn's rooted dislike to *reserve*; "they are next to unnatural," he says, "that are not communicable." Nor has he any foible for political prudence; he had, we must presume, a limited sympathy with Halifax. "Men must be saved in this world by their want of faith," says the cautious Trimmer; but Penn hotly replies, "A cunning man is a kind of lurcher in politics." On the whole, in these as in his other utterances, we see Penn revealed as a man

## Introduction ❀

of no great subtlety or *finesse d'esprit*, but as an honest and shrewd observer of life, Quakerish, utilitarian, optimistic. He does not often rise so high as in the section called "Union of Friends" (which I suspect went home with peculiar force to R. L. S.), but he seldom sinks. The reader, if he finds his attention flagging in "Some Fruits," must push on to "More Fruits," which, in my opinion, are sounder, juicier, and grown against a sunnier wall of experience than their forerunners. But all are delicate, and the little basket which holds them will be found, as Stevenson said, "in all times and places a peaceful and sweet companion."

EDMUND GOSSE.



## The Preface

READER, — *This Enchiridion*, I present thee with, is the Fruit of *Solitude*: A School few care to learn in, tho' *None* instructs us better. Some Parts of it are the *Result* of serious *Reflection*: Others the *Flashings* of *Lucid* Intervals: Writ for private Satisfaction, and now publish'd for an *Help* to *Human* Conduct.

The *Author* blesseth God for his *Retirement*, and kisses that Gentle Hand which led him into it: For though it should prove *Barren* to the World, it can never do so to him.

He has now had some *Time* he could call his own; a Property he was never

so much Master of before : In which he has taken a View of himself and the World ; and observed wherein he hath *hit* and *mist* the Mark ; What might have been done, what mended, and what avoided in his Human Conduct : Together with the *Omissions* and *Excesses* of others, as well *Societies* and *Governments*, as private Families, and Persons. And he verily thinks, were he to live over his Life again, he could not only, with God's Grace, serve Him, but his Neighbour and himself, *better* than he hath done, and have *Seven* Years of his Time to spare. And yet perhaps he hath not been the *Worst* or the *Idlest* Man in the World ; nor is he the *Oldest*. And this is the rather said, that it might quicken, Thee, *Reader*, to lose none of the Time that is yet thine.



## The Preface ❧

There is nothing of which we are apt to be so *lavish* as of Time, and about which we ought to be more *solicitous*; since without it we can do nothing in this World. *Time* is what we *want most*, but what, alas! we *use worst*; and for which God will certainly most strictly reckon with us, when Time shall be no more.

It is of that Moment to us in Reference to both Worlds, that I can hardly wish any Man better, than that he would seriously consider *what he does with his Time: How and to What Ends* he Employs it; and what Returns he makes to God, his Neighbour and Himself for it. Will he ne'er have a *Leidger* for this? This, the greatest Wisdom and Work of Life.

To come but *once* into the World,

## ✻ The Preface

and Trifle away our true Enjoyment of it, and of our selves in it, is lamentable indeed. This one Reflection would yield a *thinking* Person great Instruction. And since nothing below Man can so *Think*; Man, in being *Thoughtless*, must needs fall below himself. And that, to be sure, such do, as are *unconcern'd* in the Use of their most Precious Time.

This is but too evident, if we will allow our selves to consider, that there's hardly any Thing we take by the Right End, or improve to its just Advantage.

We understand little of the *Works* of God, either in *Nature* or *Grace*. We pursue *False* Knowledge, and *Mistake* Education extreamly. We are *Violent* in our Affections, *Confused* and

## The Preface ❧

*Immethodical* in our whole Life; making That a *Burthen*, which was given for a Blessing; and so of little Comfort to our selves or others: Misapprehending the *true Notion* of Happiness, and so missing of the *Right Use* of Life, and *Way* of happy Living.

And till we are perswaded to *stop*, and *step a little aside*, out of the *noisy Crowd* and *Incumbering Hurry* of the World, and *Calmly* take a Prospect of Things, it will be impossible we should be able to make a right Judgment of our Selves or know our own *Misery*. But after we have made the just Reckonings which *Retirement* will help us to, we shall begin to think the World in great measure *Mad*, and that we have been in a sort of *Bedlam* all this while.

*Reader*, whether Young or Old, think

## ✻ The Preface

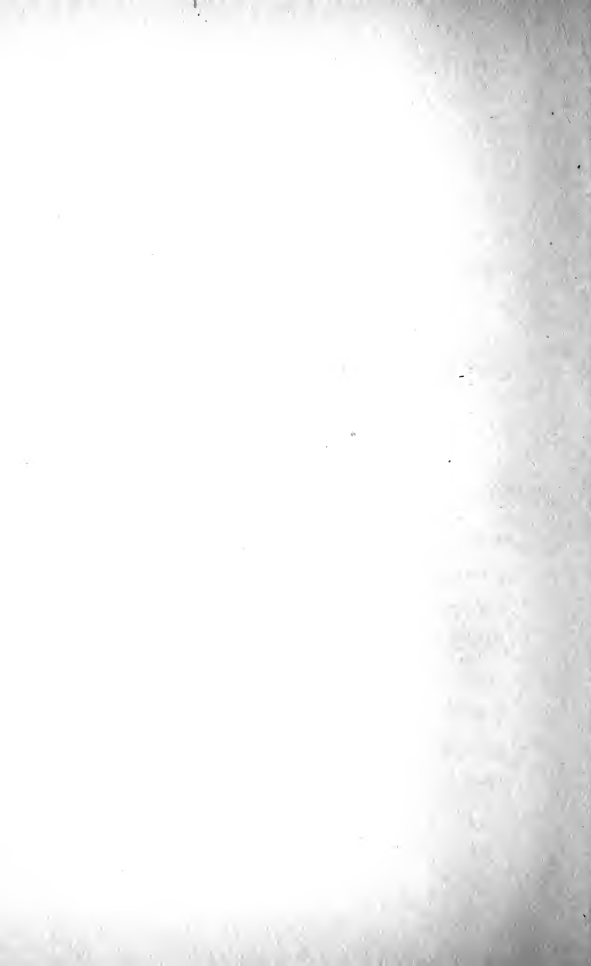
it not *too soon* or *too late* to turn over the *Leaves* of thy past Life: And be sure to *fold down* where any Passage of it may affect thee; And bestow thy *Remainder* of Time, to correct those Faults in thy future Conduct; Be it in Relation to this or the next Life. What thou wouldst do, if what-thou hast done were to do again, *be sure to do* as long as thou livest, upon the like Occasions.

Our *Resolutions* seem to be *Vigorous*, as often as we *reflect* upon our past Errors; But, Alas! they are apt to *flat* again upon fresh Temptations to the same Things.

The Author does not pretend to deliver thee an *Exact* Piece; his Business not being *Ostentation*, but *Charity*. 'Tis *Miscellaneous* in the Matter of it,

## The Preface ❀

and by no means Artificial in the Composure. But it contains *Hints*, that may serve thee for *Texts* to *Preach* to thy Self upon, and which comprehend *Much of the Course of Human Life* ; Since whether thou art *Parent* or *Child*, *Prince* or *Subject*, *Master* or *Servant*, *Single* or *Married*, *Publick* or *Private*, *Mean* or *Honourable*, *Rich* or *Poor*, *Prosperous* or *Improsperous*, in *Peace* or *Controversy*, in *Business* or *Solitude* ; Whatever be thy Inclination or Aversion, Practice or Duty, thou wilt find something not unsuitably said for thy Direction and Advantage. Accept and Improve what deserves thy Notice ; The rest excuse, and place to account of good *Will* to Thee and the whole Creation of God.



# Some Fruits of Solitude

IN

## Reflections and Maxims

IGNORANCE

1. IT is admirable to consider how many *Millions* of People come into, and go out of the World, *Ignorant of themselves*, and of the World they have lived in.

2. If one went to see *Windsor-Castle*, or *Hampton-Court*, it would be strange not to observe and remember the Situation, the Building, the Gar-

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

dens, Fountains, &c. that make up the Beauty and Pleasure of such a Seat? And yet few People know *themselves*; No, not their *own Bodies*, the *Houses* of their Minds, the *most curious* Structure of the World; a *living walking* Tabernacle: Nor the *World* of which it was made, and out of which it is fed; which would be so much our Benefit, as well as our Pleasure, to know. We cannot doubt of this when we are told that the *Invisible Things of God are brought to light by the Things that are seen*; and consequently we read our Duty in them as often as we look upon them, to him that is the Great and Wise Author of them, **if we** look as we should do.

3. The *World* is certainly a great and stately *Volume* of natural Things;



## Reflections and Maxims ❧

and may be not improperly styled the *Hieroglyphicks* of a better: But, alas! how very few Leaves of it do we seriously turn over! This ought to be the *Subject* of the Education of our *Youth*, who, at Twenty, when they should be fit for Business, know little or nothing of it.

### EDUCATION

4. We are in Pain to make them Scholars, but not *Men*! To talk, rather than to know, which is true *Canting*.

5. The first Thing obvious to Children is what is *sensible*; and that we make no Part of their Rudiments.

6. We press their Memory too soon, and puzzle, strain and load them with

## ✧ Reflections and Maxims

Words and Rules; to know *Grammer* and *Rhetorick*, and a strange Tongue or two, that it is ten to one may never be useful to them; Leaving their natural *Genius* to *Mechanical* and *Physical*, or natural Knowledge uncultivated and neglected; which would be of exceeding Use and Pleasure to them through the whole Course of their Life.

7. To be sure, Languages are not to be despised or neglected. But Things are still to be preferred.

8. Children had rather be making of *Tools* and *Instruments* of Play; *Shaping*, *Drawing*, *Framing*, and *Building*, &c. than getting some Rules of Propriety of Speech by Heart: And those also would follow with more Judgment, and less Trouble and Time.

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

9. It were Happy if we studied Nature more in natural Things; and acted according to Nature; whose Rules are *few, plain and most reasonable*.

10. Let us begin where she begins, go her Pace, and close always where she ends, and we cannot miss of being good *Naturalists*.

11. The Creation would not be longer a Riddle to us: The *Heavens, Earth, and Waters*, with their respective, various and numerous Inhabitants: Their Productions, Natures, Seasons, Sympathies and Antipathies; their Use, Benefit and Pleasure, would be better understood by us: And an *eternal Wisdom, Power, Majesty and Goodness*, very *conspicuous* to us, thro' those sensible and passing Forms:

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

The World wearing the *Mark* of its Maker, whose Stamp is everywhere *visible*, and the *Characters* very *legible* to the Children of Wisdom.

12. And it would go a great way to caution and direct People in their Use of the World, that they were better studied and known in the Creation of it.

13. For how could Man find the Confidence to abuse it, while they should see the Great Creator stare them in the Face, in all and every Part thereof?

14. Their Ignorance makes them insensible, and that Insensibility hardy in misusing this noble Creation, that has the Stamp and Voice of a Deity every where, and in every Thing to the Observing.

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

15. It is pity therefore that Books have not been composed for *Youth*, by some curious and careful *Naturalists*, and also *Mechanicks*, in the *Latin* Tongue, to be used in Schools, that they might learn Things with Words: Things *obvious* and *familiar* to them, and which would make the Tongue easier to be obtained by them.

16. Many able *Gardeners* and *Husbandmen* are yet Ignorant of the *Reason* of their Calling; as most *Artificers* are of the Reason of their own Rules that govern their excellent Workmanship. But a Naturalist and Mechanick of this sort, is *Master* of the Reason of both, and might be of the Practice too, if his Industry kept pace with his Speculation; which were very commendable; and without

## ✧ Reflections and Maxims

which he cannot be said to be a *complete* Naturalist or Mechanick.

17. Finally, if Man be the *Index* or *Epitomy* of the World, as *Philosophers* tell us, we have only to read our *selves* well to be *learned* in it. But because there is nothing we less regard than the *Characters* of the Power that made us, which are so clearly written upon us and the World he has given us, and can best tell us what we are and should be, we are even Strangers to our own *Genius*: The *Glass* in which we should see that true instructing and agreeable Variety, which is to be observed in Nature, to the Admiration of that Wisdom and Adoration of that Power which made us all.

PRIDE

18. And yet we are very apt to be *full* of our selves, instead of *Him* that made what we so much value; and, but for whom we can have no Reason to value our selves. For we have nothing that we can call our own; no, not our selves; For we are all but *Tenants*, and at *Will* too, of the great Lord of our selves, and the rest of this great *Farm*, the World that we live upon.

19. But methinks we cannot answer it to our Selves as well as our Maker, that we should live and die ignorant of our Selves, and thereby of Him and the Obligations we are under to Him for our Selves.

## ✧ Reflections and Maxims

20. If the worth of a Gift sets the Obligation, and directs the return of the Party that receives it; he that is ignorant of it, will be at a loss to value it and the Giver, for it.

21. Here is Man in his Ignorance of himself. He knows not how to estimate his Creator, because he knows not how to value his Creation. If we consider his Make, and lovely Compositure; the several Stories of his lovely Structure. His divers Members, their Order, Function and Dependency: The Instruments of Food, the Vessels of Digestion, the several Transmutations it passes. And how Nourishment is carried and defused throughout the whole Body, by most innate and imperceptible Passages. How the Animal Spirit is thereby



## Reflections and Maxims ❧

refreshed, and with an unspeakable Dexterity and Motion sets all Parts at work to feed themselves. And last of all, how the Rational Soul is seated in the Animal, as its proper House, as is the Animal in the Body: I say if this rare Fabrick alone were but considered by us, with all the rest by which it is fed and comforted, surely Man would have a more reverent Sense of the Power, Wisdom and Goodness of God, and of that Duty he owes to Him for it. But if he would be acquainted with his own Soul, its noble Faculties, its Union with the Body, its Nature and End, and the Providences by which the whole Frame of Humanity is preserved, he would Admire and Adore his Good and Great God. But Man is become a strange

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

*Contradiction* to himself; but it is of himself; Not being by Constitution, but *Corruption* such.

22. He would have others obey him, even his own kind; but he will not obey God, that is so much above him, and who made him.

23. He will lose none of his Authority; no, not bate an Ace of it: He is humorous to his Wife, he beats his Children, is angry with his Servants, strict with his Neighbours, revenges all Affronts to Extremity; but, alas, forgets all the while that *he is the Man*; and is more in *Arrear* to God, that is so very patient with him, than they are to him with whom he is so strict and impatient.

24. He is curious to *wash, dress* and *perfume* his Body, but *careless* of his

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

Soul. The one shall have many Hours, the other not so many Minutes. This shall have three or four new Suits in a Year, but that must wear its *old Cloaths* still.

25. If he be to receive or see a great Man, how nice and anxious is he that all things be in order? And with what Respect and Address does he approach and make his Court? But to God, how *dry* and *formal* and *constrained* in his Devotion?

26. In his Prayers he says, *Thy Will be done*; But means his own: At least acts so.

27. It is too frequent to begin with God and end with the *World*. But He is the good Man's *Beginning* and *End*; his *Alpha* and *Omega*.

## LUXURY

28. Such is now become our Delicacy, that we will not eat ordinary Meat, nor drink small, pall'd Liquor ; we must have the best, and the best cook'd for our Bodies, while our Souls feed on *empty* or *corrupted* Things.

29. In short, Man is *spending* all upon a *bare* House, and hath little or no Furniture within to recommend it ; which is preferring the Cabinet before the Jewel, a Lease of seven Years before an Inheritance. So *absurd* a thing is Man, after all his proud Pretences to Wit and Understanding.

INCONSIDERATION

30. The want of due Consideration is the Cause of all the Unhappiness Man brings upon himself. For his second Thoughts rarely agree with his first, which pass not without a considerable Retrenchment or Correction. And yet that sensible Warning is, too frequently, not Precaution enough for his future Conduct.

31. Well may we say our Infelicity is of our selves ; since there is nothing we do that we should not do, *but we know it, and yet do it.*

DISAPPOINTMENT and  
RESIGNATION

32. For *Disappointments*, that come not by our own Folly, they are the Tryals or Corrections of Heaven: And it is our *own* Fault, if they prove not our Advantage.

33. To repine at them does not mend the Matter: It is only to *grumble* at our Creator. But to see the Hand of God in them, with an humble Submission to his Will, is the Way to *turn our Water into Wine*, and engage the greatest Love and Mercy on our side.

34. We must needs disorder our selves, if we only look at our Losses. But if we consider how *little* we de-

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

serve what is left, our Passion will *cool*, and our Murmurs will turn into Thankfulness.

35. If our Hairs fall not to the Ground, *less do we* or our Substance without God's *Providence*.

36. Nor can we fall below the *Arms* of God, how low soever it be we fall.

37. For though our Saviour's Passion is over, his *Compassion* is not. That never fails his humble, sincere Disciples: In him, they find more than all that they lose in the World.

### MURMURING

38. Is it reasonable to take it ill, that any Body desires of us that which is their own? All we have is the

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

*Almighty's*: And shall not God have his *own* when he calls for it?

39. Discontentedness is not only in such a Case Ingratitude, but *Injustice*. For we are both unthankful for the time we had it, and not honest enough to restore it, if we could keep it.

40. But it is hard for us to look on things in such a Glass, and at such a Distance from this low World; and yet it is our Duty, and would be our *Wisdom* and our *Glory* to do so.

### CONSCIOUSNESS

41. We are apt to be very pert at *censuring others*, where we will not endure advice our selves. And nothing, shews our Weakness more than to be so sharp-sighted at spying other



## Reflections and Maxims ❧

Mens Faults, and so *purblind* about our own.

42. When the Actions of a Neighbour are upon the Stage, we can have all our Wits about us, are so quick and critical we can split an Hair, and find out every Failure and Infirmary: *But are without feeling, or have but very little Sense of our own.*

43. Much of this comes from *Ill Nature*, as well as from an inordinate Value of our selves: For we love Rambling better than home, and blaming the unhappy, rather than covering and relieving them.

44. In such Occasions some shew their Malice, and are witty upon *Misfortunes*; others their Justice, they can reflect a pace: But few or none their

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

Charity; especially if it be about Money Matters.

45. You shall see an *old Miser* come forth with a set Gravity, and so much Severity against the distressed, *to excuse his Purse*, that he will, e'er he has done, put it out of all Question, That Riches is *Righteousness* with him. *This*, says he, *is the Fruit of your Prodigality* (as if, poor Man, *Covetousness* were no Fault) Or, *of your Projects, or grasping after a great Trade*: While he himself would have done the same thing, but that he had not the *Courage* to venture so much ready Money *out of his own trusty Hands*, though it had been to have brought him back the *Indes* in return. But the Proverb is just, *Vice should not correct Sin*.

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

46. They have a Right to censure, that have a *Heart* to help: The rest is Cruelty, not Justice.

### BOUNDS of CHARITY

47. Lend not *beyond* thy Ability, nor *refuse* to lend out of thy Ability; especially when it will help others *more than it can hurt thee*.

48. If thy Debtor be honest and capable, thou hast thy Money again, if not with Encrease, with Praise: If he prove insolvent, don't ruin him to get that, *which it will not ruin thee to lose*: For thou art but a *Steward*, and another is thy Owner, Master and Judge.

49. The more merciful Acts thou dost, the more Mercy thou wilt re-

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

*ceive*; and if with a *charitable* Employment of thy Temporal Riches, thou gainest *eternal* Treasure, thy Purchase is *infinite*: Thou wilt have found the Art of *Multiplying* indeed.

### FRUGALITY or BOUNTY

50. *Frugality* is good, if *Liberality* be join'd with it. The first is *leaving off* superfluous Expences; the last *bestowing* them to the *Benefit* of others that need. The first without the last *begins Covetousness*; the last without the first *begins Prodigality*: Both together make an *excellent Temper*. Happy the Place where ever that is found.

51. Were it universal, we should be Cur'd of two Extrems, *Want* and

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

*Excess*: and the one would supply the other, and so bring both nearer to a *Mean*; the just Degree of earthly Happiness.

52. It is a Reproach to Religion and Government to suffer so much Poverty and Excess.

53. Were the *Superfluities* of a Nation valued, and made a perpetual *Tax* or *Benevolence*, there would be more Almshouses than Poor; Schools than Scholars; and *enough to spare* for Government besides.

54. *Hospitality* is good, if the poorer sort are the *Subjects* of our Bounty; else too near a Superfluity.

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

### DISCIPLINE

55. If thou wouldst be happy and easie in thy Family, above all things observe *Discipline*.

56. Every one in it should know their Duty; and there should be a Time and Place for every thing; and whatever else is done or omitted, *be sure to begin and end with God*.

### INDUSTRY

57. Love *Labour*: For if thou dost not want it for Food, thou mayest for *Physick*. It is *wholesom* for thy Body, and good for thy Mind. It *prevents* the Fruits of Idleness, which many times come of nothing to do and

## Reflections and Maxims ❀

leads too many to do what is *worse* than nothing.

58. A *Garden*, an *Elaboratory*, a *Work-house*, *Improvements* and *Breeding*, are pleasant and profitable Diversions to the Idle and Ingenious: For here they *miss* Ill Company, and converse with *Nature* and *Art*; whose Variety are equally grateful and instructing; and preserve a *good Constitution* of Body and Mind.

### TEMPERANCE

59. To this a *spare* Diet contributes much. Eat therefore to *live*, and do not live to eat. That's like a *Man*, but this below a *Beast*.

60. Have wholesome, but not *costly*

## ❖ Reflections and Maxims

Food, and be rather cleanly than *dainty* in ordering it.

61. The *Receipts* of Cookery are *swell'd* to a Volume, but a *good Stomach* excels them all; to which nothing contributes more than *Industry* and *Temperance*.

62. It is a cruel Folly to offer up to *Ostentation* so many Lives of Creatures, as make up the State of our Treats; as it is a prodigal one to spend more in *Sawce* than in Meat.

63. The Proverb says, *That enough is as good as a Feast*: But it is certainly better, if Superfluity be a Fault, which never fails to be at Festivals.

64. If thou rise with an Appetite, thou art sure never to sit down without one.

65. Rarely drink but when thou art



## Reflections and Maxims ❧

*dry*; nor then, between Meals, if it can be avoided.

66. The *smaller* the Drink, the *clearer* the Head, and the *cooler* the Blood; which are great Benefits in Temper and Business.

67. Strong Liquors are good at some Times, and in small Proportions; being better for *Physick* than Food, for *Cordials* than common Use.

68. The most *common* things are the most *useful*; which shews both the *Wisdom* and *Goodness* of the great Lord of the Family of the World.

69. What therefore he has made rare, don't thou use *too commonly*: Lest thou shouldest invert the Use and Order of things; become Wan-

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

ton and Voluptuous; and thy Blessings prove a *Curse*.

70. *Let nothing be lost*, said our Saviour. But that is *lost* that is *misused*.

71. Neither urge another to that thou wouldst be unwilling to do thy self, nor do thy self what looks to thee *unseemly*, and intemperate in another.

72. All Excess is ill: But *Drunkenness* is of the worst Sort. It *spoils* Health, *dismounts* the Mind, and unmans Men: It *reveals Secrets*, is *Quarrelsome*, *Lascivious*, *Impudent*, *Dangerous* and *Mad*. In fine, he that is drunk is not a Man: Because he is so long void of *Reason*, that distinguishes a Man from a Beast.

## APPAREL

73. Excess in Apparel is another costly Folly. The very Trimming of the vain World would cloath all the *naked* one.

74. Chuse thy Cloaths by thine own Eyes, not anothers. The more plain and simple they are, the better. Neither unshapely, nor fantastical; and for Use and Decency, and not for Pride.

75. If thou art clean and warm, it is sufficient; for more doth but rob the *Poor*, and please the *Wanton*.

76. It is said of the true Church, *the King's Daughter is all glorious within*. Let our Care therefore be

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

of our Minds more than of our Bodies, if we would be of her Communion.

77. We are told with Truth, that *Meekness* and *Modesty* are the Rich and Charming Attire of the Soul: And the plainer the Dress, the more Distinctly, and with greater Lustre, their Beauty shines.

78. It is great Pity such Beauties are so *rare*, and those of *Jezebel's* Forehead are so *common*: Whose Dresses are Incentives to Lust; but *Bars* instead of Motives, to *Love* or *Vertue*.

### RIGHT MARRIAGE

79. Never Marry but *for Love*; but see that thou lov'st what is *lovely*.

80. If Love be not thy *chiefest*

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

Motive, thou wilt soon grow *weary* of a Married State, and *stray* from thy Promise, to search out thy Pleasures in *forbidden* Places.

81. Let not Enjoyment *lessen*, but augment Affection; it being the basest of Passions *to like when we have not, what we slight when we possess.*

82. It is the difference betwixt *Lust* and *Love*, that this is fixt, that volatile. Love grows, Lust wastes by Enjoyment: And the Reason is, that one springs from an *Union of Souls*, and the other from an *Union of Sense.*

83. They have Divers Originals, and so are of different Families: That *inward* and *deep*, this superficial; this transient, and that parmanent.

84. They that Marry for *Money* cannot have the true Satisfaction of Mar-

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

riage; the requisite Means being wanting.

85. Men are generally more careful of the *Breed* of their *Horses* and *Dogs* than of their *Children*.

86. Those must be of the best Sort, for *Shape, Strength, Courage* and *good Conditions*: But as for these, their own *Posterity, Money shall answer all Things*. With such, it makes the *Crooked Streight, sets Squint-Eyes Right, cures Madness, covers Folly, changes ill Conditions, mends the Skin, gives a sweet Breath, repairs Honours, makes Young, works Wonders*.

87. O how *sordid* is *Man* grown! *Man*, the noblest Creature in the World, as a *God* on *Earth*, and the *Image* of him that made it; thus to

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

*mistake* Earth for Heaven, and *worship* Gold for God!

### AVARICE

88. Covetousness is the *greatest of Monsters*, as well as the *Root of all Evil*. I have once seen the Man that *dyed to save Charges*. *What! Give Ten Shillings to a Doctor, and have an Apothecary's Bill besides, that may come to I know not what! No, not he: Valuing Life less than Twenty Shillings*. But indeed such a Man could not well set too low a Price upon himself; who, though he liv'd up to the Chin in Bags, had *rather die* than find in his Heart to *open one* of them, to help to save his Life.

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

89. Such a Man is *felo de se*, and deserves not *Christian Burial*.

90. He is a *common Nuisance*, a *Weyer* cross the Stream, that stops the Current: An *Obstruction*, to be remov'd by a Purge of the Law. The only Gratification he gives his Neighbours, is to let them see, that he himself is as little the better for what he has, as they are. For he always looks like *Lent*; a sort of *Lay Minim*. In some Sense he may be compar'd to *Pharoah's lean Kine*, for all that he has does him no good. He commonly wears his Cloaths till they *leave him*, or that no Body else can wear them. He affects to be thought poor, to escape *Robbery* and *Taxes*: And by looking as if he wanted an *Alms*, excusing himself



## Reflections and Maxims ❧

from giving any. He ever goes late to Markets, to cover buying the worst: But does it because that is cheapest. He lives of the *Offal*. His Life were an insupportable Punishment to any Temper but his own: And no greater Torment to him on Earth, than to live as other Men do. But the Misery of his Pleasure is, that he is *never satisfied* with *getting*, and always in *Fear of losing* what he cannot use.

91. How vilely has he lost himself, that becomes a *Slave* to his Servant; and exalts him to the Dignity of his Maker? *Gold* is the *God*, the *Wife*, the *Friend* of the *Money-Monger* of the World.

92. But in Marriage do thou be wise; prefer the *Person* before

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

Money, *Vertue* before Beauty, the *Mind* before the Body: Then thou hast a *Wife*, a *Friend*, a *Companion*, a *Second Self*; one that bears an equal Share with thee in all thy Toys and Troubles.

93. Chuse one that Measures her satisfaction, Safety and Danger, by *thine*; and of whom, thou art sure, as of thy secretest Thoughts: A *Friend* as well as a *Wife*, which indeed a *Wife implies*: For she is but *half* a *Wife* that is not, or is not capable of being *such* a *Friend*.

94. *Sexes* make no Difference; since in *Souls* there is *none*: And they are the Subjects of *Friendship*.

95. He that minds a *Body* and not a *Soul*, has not the *better* Part of that Relation; and will consequently

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

want the Noblest Comfort of a Married Life.

96. The Satisfaction of our Senses is *low, short, and transient*: But the *Mind* gives a more raised and extended Pleasure, and is capable of an Happiness founded upon *Reason*; not bounded and limited by the Circumstances that Bodies are confin'd to.

97. *Here* it is we ought to search out our Pleasure, where the Field is large and full of Variety, and of an induring Nature: *Sickness, Poverty or Disgrace*, being not able to *shake* it, because it is not under the moving Influences of Worldly Contingences.

98. The Satisfaction of those that do so is in *well-doing*, and in the

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

*Assurance* they have of a future Reward: That they are *best* loved of those they love most, and that they enjoy and value the Liberty of their *Minds* above that of their Bodies; having the *whole Creation* for their Prospect, the most Noble and *Wonderful Works* and *Providences* of God, the *Histories* of the Antients, and in them the *Actions* and *Examples* of the Vertuous; and lastly, *themselves*, their *Affairs* and *Family*, to exercise their Minds and Friendship upon.

99. Nothing can be more entire and without Reserve; nothing more zealous, affectionate and sincere; nothing more contented and constant than such a Couple; nor no greater temporal Felicity than to be *one of them*.

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

100. Between a Man and his Wife nothing ought to rule but *Love*. Authority is for *Children* and *Servants*; yet not without Sweetness.

101. As Love ought to bring them together, so it is the best Way to keep them *well* together.

102. Wherefore use her not as a *Servant*, whom thou would'st, perhaps, have serv'd *Seven Years* to have obtained.

103. An Husband and Wife that love and value one another, shew their Children and Servants, That they should do so too. *Others visibly lose their Authority in their Families by their Contempt of one another*; and teach their Children to be unnatural by their own Example.

104. It is a general Fault, not to be

## ✧ Reflections and Maxims

more careful to preserve Nature in Children; who, at least in the second Descent, hardly have the *Feeling* of their Relation; which must be an unpleasant Reflection to affectionate Parents.

105. Frequent *Visits, Presents, intimate Correspondence* and *Intermarriages* within allowed Bounds, are Means of keeping up the Concern and Affection that Nature requires from Relations.

### FRIENDSHIP

106. *Friendship* is the next Pleasure we may hope for: And where we find it not at home, or have no home to find it in, we may seek it abroad. It is an Union of *Spirits*, a Marriage of *Hearts*, and the Bond thereof *Vertue*.

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

107. There can be no Friendship where there is no *Freedom*. Friendship loves a *free* Air, and will not be penned up in streight and narrow Enclosures. It will speak *freely*, and *act* so too; and take nothing ill where no ill is meant; nay, where it is, 'twill *easily* forgive, and forget too, upon small Acknowledgments.

108. Friends are true *Twins* in Soul; they Sympathize in every thing, and have the Love and Aversion.

109. One is not happy without the other, nor can either of them be miserable *alone*. As if they could change *Bodies*, they take their *Turns* in Pain as well as in Pleasure; *relieving* one another in their most adverse Conditions.

110. What one enjoys, the other

## ✧ Reflections and Maxims

cannot Want. Like the Primitive Christians, they have all things in common, and no *Property but in one another*.

### QUALITIES of a FRIEND

III. A true Friend unbosoms *freely*, advises *justly*, assists *readily*, adventures *boldly*, takes all *patiently*, defends *couragiously*, and continues a Friend *unchangeably*.

II2. These being the Qualities of a Friend, we are to find them before we chuse one.

II3. The *Covetous*, the *Angry*, the *Proud*, the *Jealous*, the *Talkative*, cannot but make ill Friends, as well as the *False*.

II4. In short, chuse a Friend as



## Reflections and Maxims ❧

thou dost a Wife, *till Death separate you.*

115. Yet be not a Friend beyond the *Altar*: But let *Virtue* bound thy Friendship: Else it is not Friendship, but an Evil Confederacy.

116. If my *Brother* or *Kinsman* will be my Friend, I ought to prefer him before a Stranger, or I shew little Duty or *Nature* to my *Parents*.

117. And as we ought to prefer our *Kindred* in Point of Affection, so too in Point of *Charity*, if *equally* needing and deserving.

### CAUTION and CONDUCT

118. Be not *easily* acquainted, lest finding Reason to cool, thou makest an *Enemy* instead of a good Neighbour.

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

119. Be Reserved, but not *Sour*; Grave, but not *Formal*; Bold, but not *Rash*; Humble, but not *Servile*; Patient, not *Insensible*; Constant, not *Obstinate*; Cheerful, not *Light*: Rather Sweet than *Familiar*; *Familiar*, than *Intimate*; and Intimate with *very few*, and upon *very good Grounds*.

120. *Return* the Civilities thou receivest, and be *ever* grateful for Favours.

### REPARATION

121. If thou hast done an Injury to another, rather own it than defend it. One way thou gainest Forgiveness, the other, thou *doubl'st* the Wrong and Reckoning.

122. Some oppose *Honour* to *Submission*: But it can be no Honour to

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

maintain what it is dishonourable to do.

123. To confess a Fault, that is none, out of Fear, is indeed *mean*: But not to be afraid of standing in one, is *Brutish*.

124. We should make more *Haste* to Right our Neighbour, than we do to wrong him, and instead of being Vindictive, we should leave him to be *Judge* of his own Satisfaction.

125. True Honour will pay *treble* Damages, rather than justify *one* Wrong by *another*.

126. In such Controversies, it is but too common for some to say, *Both are to blame*, to excuse their own *Unconcernedness*, which is a *base Neutrality*. Others will cry, *They are both alike*; thereby involving the Injured with the

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

Guilty, to *mince* the Matter for the Faulty, or cover their own Injustice to the wronged Party.

127. *Fear* and *Gain* are great Perverters of Mankind, and where either prevail, the *Judgment* is violated.

### RULES of CONVERSATION

128. Avoid *Company* where it is not *profitable* or necessary; and in those Occasions speak *little*, and *last*.

129. *Silence* is Wisdom, where Speaking is *Folly*; and always safe.

130. Some are so Foolish as to interrupt and anticipate those that speak, instead of hearing and thinking before they answer; which is uncivil as well as silly.

131. If thou thinkest twice, before

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

thou speakest once, *thou* wilt speak twice the better for it.

132. Better say nothing than not to the Purpose. And to speak pertinently, consider both what is fit, and when it is fit to speak.

133. In all Debates, let *Truth* be thy Aim, not Victory, or an unjust Interest: And endeavour to *gain*, rather than to expose thy Antagonist.

134. Give no Advantage in Argument, nor *lose* any that is offered. This is a Benefit which arises from *Temper*.

135. Don't use thy self to dispute *against* thine own Judgment, to shew *Wit*, lest it prepare thee to be too *indifferent* about what is *Right*: Nor against another Man, to *vex* him, or for meer Trial of Skill; since to *in-*

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

*form*, or to be *informed*, ought to be the *End* of all Conferences.

136. Men are too apt to be concerned for their *Credit*, more than for the Cause.

### ELOQUENCE

137. There is a Truth and Beauty in *Rhetorick*; but it oftener serves *ill* Turns than good ones.

138. Elegancy, is a *good Meen* and *Address* given to Matter, be it by proper or figurative Speech: Where the Words are apt, and Allusions very natural, Certainly it has a moving Grace: But it is too *artificial* for Simplicity, and oftentimes for Truth. The Danger is, lest it delude the Weak, who in such Cases

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

may *mistake* the *Handmaid* for the Mistress, if not *Error* for Truth.

139. 'Tis certain Truth is least indebted to it, because she has *least need* of it, and least uses it.

140. But it is a *reprovable* Delicacy in them that despise Truth in *plain Cloths*.

141. Such *Luxuriants* have but false Appetites; like those Gluttons, that by Sawces *force* them, where they have no Stomach, and Sacrifice to their *Pallate*, not their Health: Which cannot be without great Vanity, nor That without some *Sin*.

### TEMPER

142. Nothing does Reason more Right, than the *Coolness* of those that

offer it: For Truth often suffers more by the *Heat* of its Defenders, than from the Arguments of its Opposers.

143. *Zeal* ever follows an Appearance of Truth, and the Assured are too apt to be *warm*; but 'tis their weak side in Argument; Zeal being better shewn against *Sin*, than Persons or their Mistakes.

## TRUTH

144. Where thou art Obliged to speak, be sure speak the Truth: For Equivocation is *half way* to Lying, as Lying, the *whole way to Hell*.



## JUSTICE

145. Believe nothing against another but upon *good* Authority: Nor report what may hurt another, unless it be a *greater* hurt to others to conceal it.

## SECRECY

146. It is *wise* not to *seek* a Secret, and *honest* not to *reveal* one.

147. Only trust thy *self* and another shall not betray thee.

148. *Openness* has the *Mischief*, though not the *Malice* of Treachery.

## COMPLACENCY

149. Never assent meerly to *please* others. For that is, besides Flattery,

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

oftentimes Untruth; and discovers a Mind *liable* to be servile and base: Nor contradict to *vex* others, for that shows an *ill* Temper, and provokes, but profits no Body.

### SHIFTS

150. Do not accuse others to *excuse* thy self; for that is neither Generous nor Just. But let *Sincerity* and *Ingenuity* be thy Refuge, rather than Craft and Falsehood: *For Cunning borders very near upon Knavery.*

151. *Wisdom* never uses nor wants it. *Cunning* to *Wise*, is as an *Ape* to a Man.

### INTEREST

152. *Interest* has the *Security*, tho' not the *Virtue* of a Principle. As the

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

---

World goes 'tis the *surer* side; For Men daily leave both Relations and Religion to follow it.

153. 'Tis an odd Sight, but very evident, That Families and Nations, of cross Religions and Humours, *unite* against those of their *own*, where they find an *Interest* to do it.

154. We are tied down by our *Senses* to this World; and where that is in Question, it can be none with Worldly Men, whether they should not forsake all other Considerations for it.

### INQUIRY

155. Have a care of *Vulgar Errors*. Dislike, as well as Allow *Reasonably*.

156. Inquiry is *Human*; Blind Obedience, *Brutal*. Truth never loses

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

by the one, but often suffers by the other.

157. The usefulest Truths are *plainest*: And while we keep to them, our Differences cannot rise high.

158. There may be a *Wantonness* in Search, as well as a Stupidity in Trusting. It is great Wisdom *equally* to avoid the Extreame.

### RIGHT - TIMING

159. Do nothing *improperly*. Some are Witty, Kind, Cold, Angry, Easie, Stiff, Jealous, Careless, Cautious, Confident, Close, Open, but all in the *wrong Place*.

160. It is ill mistaking where the Matter is of *Importance*.

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

161. It is not enough that a thing be *Right*, if it be not *fit* to be done. If not Imprudent, tho' Just, it is *not* advisable. He that loses by getting, had *better* lose than get.

### KNOWLEDGE

162. *Knowledge* is the *Treasure*, but *Judgment* the Treasurer of a Wise Man.

163. He that has more Knowledge than Judgment, is made for *another Man's* use more than his own.

164. It cannot be a good Constitution, where the Appetite is great and the Digestion is weak.

165. There are some Men like *Dictionaries*; to be lookt into upon

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

occasions, but have no Connection, and are little entertaining.

166. Less Knowledge than Judgment will always have the advantage upon the *Injudicious* knowing Man.

167. A Wise Man makes what he learns his *own*, 'tother shews he's but a *Copy*, or a Collection at most.

### WIT

168. *Wit* is an happy and striking way of expressing a Thought.

169. 'Tis not often tho' it be lively and mantling, that it carries a great Body with it.

170. Wit therefore is fitter for Diversion than Business, being more grateful to Fancy than Judgment.

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

171. Less Judgment than Wit, is  
*more Sale than Ballast.*

172. Yet it must be confessed, that  
Wit gives an *Edge* to Sense, and recommends it extreamly.

173. Where Judgment has Wit to  
express it, there's the *best* Orator.

### OBEDIENCE to PARENTS

174. If thou wouldest be obeyed,  
being a Father; being a Son, be  
*Obedient.*

175. He that begets thee, *owes* thee;  
and has a natural Right over thee.

176. Next to God, thy *Parents*;  
next them, the *Magistrate.*

177. Remember that thou are not  
more indebted to thy Parents for thy  
*Nature*, than for thy *Love* and *Care.*

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

178. *Rebellion* therefore in Children, was made *Death* by God's Law, and the next Sin to *Idolatry*, in the People; which is *renouncing* of God, the *Parent* of all.

179. *Obedience* to Parents is not only our Duty, but our *Interest*. If we received our Life from them, We prolong it by obeying them: For *Obedience* is the first Commandment with *Promise*.

180. The *Obligation* is as indissolvable as the Relation.

181. If we must not disobey God to obey them; at least we must let them see, that there is *nothing else* in our Refusal. For some unjust Commands cannot excuse the general Neglect of our Duty. They will be our Parents and we must be their



## Reflections and Maxims ❧

Children still: And if we cannot act for them against God, neither can we act against them for ourselves or anything else.

### BEARING

182. A Man in Business must put up many Affronts, if he loves his own Quiet.

183. We must not pretend to see all that we see, if we would be *easy*.

184. It were *endless* to dispute upon everything that is *disputable*.

185. A *vindictive* Temper is not only *uneasy* to others, but to them that have it.

### PROMISING

186. *Rarely* Promise: But, if Lawful, *constantly* perform.

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

187. Hasty Resolutions are of the Nature of *Vows*; and to be equally avoided.

188. I will never do this, says one, *yet does it*: I am resolved to do this, says another; but flags upon second Thoughts: Or does it, tho' awkwardly, for his Word's sake: As if it were *worse* to break his Word, than to do amiss in keeping it.

189. Wear none of thine *own Chains*; but keep free, whilst thou art free.

190. It is an Effect of *Passion* that Wisdom corrects, to lay thy self under Resolutions that cannot be *well* made, and must be *worse* performed.

FIDELITY

191. Avoid all thou canst to be *Entrusted*: But do thy *utmost* to discharge the Trust thou undertakest: For Carelessness is *Injurious*, if not Unjust.

192. The Glory of a Servant is *Fidelity*; which cannot be without Diligence, as well as Truth.

193. *Fidelity* has *Enfranchised* Slaves, and *Adopted* Servants to be *Sons*.

194. Reward a good Servant well: And rather quit than *Disquiet* thy self with an ill one.

MASTER

195. Mix *Kindness* with Authority: and rule more by *Discretion* than Rigour.

196. If thy Servant be faulty, strive rather to convince him of his Error, than discover thy *Passion*: And when he is sensible, *forgive* him.

197. Remember he is thy *Fellow-Creature*, and that God's *Goodness*, not thy Merit, has made the Difference betwixt Thee and Him.

198. Let not thy Children *Dominée* over thy Servants: Nor suffer them to *slight* thy Children.

199. Suppress Tales in the general: But where a Matter requires

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

notice, encourage the Complaint, and right the Aggrieved.

200. If a Child, he ought to *Entreat*, and not to *Command*; and if a Servant, *to comply* where he does not obey.

201. Tho' there should be but one Master and Mistress in a Family, yet Servants should know that Children have the *Reversion*.

### SERVANT

202. Indulge not *unseemly* Things in thy Master's Children, nor refuse them what is *fitting*: For one is the *highest Unfaithfulness*, and the other, *Indiscretion* as well as Disrespect.

203. Do thine own Work honestly and chearfully: And when that is

## ✧ Reflections and Maxims

done, help thy Fellow; that so another time he may help thee.

204. If thou wilt be a *Good* Servant, thou must be *True*; and thou canst not be *True* if thou *Defraud'st* thy Master.

205. A Master may be Defrauded many ways by a Servant: As in *Time, Care, Pains, Money, Trust.*

206. But, a *True* Servant is the *Contrary*: He's *Diligent, Careful, Trusty.* He Tells no *Tales*, Reveals no *Secrets*, Refuses no *Pains*: Not to be tempted by *Gain*, nor aw'd by *Fear*, to *Unfaithfulness.*

207. Such a Servant, serves *God* in serving his Master; and has *double* Wages for his Work, to wit, *Here* and *Hereafter.*

## JEALOUS

208. Be not *fancifully* Jealous: For that is *Foolish*; as, to be *reasonably* so, is *Wise*.

209. He that *superfines* up another Man's Actions, cozens *himself*, as well as injures them.

210. To be very subtil and scrupulous in Business, is as hurtful, as being over-confident and secure,

211. In difficult Cases, such a Temper is *Timorous*; and in dispatch *Irresolute*.

212. *Experience* is a safe Guide: And a *Practical* Head, is a great Happiness in Business.

POSTERITY

213. We are too *careless* of *Posterity*; not considering that as they are, so the next Generation will be.

214. If we would amend the World, we should mend *Our selves*; and teach our Children to be, not what we are, but what they should be.

215. We are too apt to awaken and turn up their Passions by the Examples of our own; and to teach them to be pleased, not with what is best, but with what *pleases best*.

216. It is our Duty, and ought to be our Care, to ward against that Passion in them, which is more especially our *Own* Weakness and



## Reflections and Maxims ❧

Affliction: for we are in great measure accountable for them, as well as for our selves.

217. We are in this also true *Turners of the World upside down*: For Money is first, and Virtue last, and least in our care.

218. It is not *How* we leave our Children, but *What* we leave them.

219. To be sure *Virtue* is but a Supplement, and not a *Principal* in their Portion and Character: And therefore we see so little *Wisdom* or *Goodness* among the Rich, in proportion to their *Wealth*.

### A COUNTRY LIFE

220. The *Country* Life is to be *preferr'd*; for there we see the Works

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

of *God*; but in Cities little else but the *Works of Men*: And the one makes a better Subject for our Contemplation than the other.

221. As *Puppets* are to Men, and *Babies* to Children, so is Man's Workmanship to God's: We are the *Picture*, he the *Reality*.

222. God's Works declare his *Power*, *Wisdom* and *Goodness*; but Man's Works, for the most part, his *Pride*, *Folly* and *Excess*. The one is for *use*, the other, chiefly, for *Ostentation* and *Lust*.

223. The *Country* is both the Philosopher's *Garden* and his *Library*, in which he Reads and Contemplates the *Power*, *Wisdom* and *Goodness* of God.

224. It is his *Food* as well as *Study*;

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

and gives him *Life*, as well as *Learning*.

225. A Sweet and Natural Retreat from Noise and Talk, and allows opportunity for Reflection, and gives the best Subjects for it.

226. In short, 'tis an Original, and the Knowledge and Improvement of it, Man's oldest Business and Trade, and the best he can be of.

### ART and PROJECT

227. *Art*, is Good, where it is beneficial. *Socrates* wisely bounded his Knowledge and Instruction by *Practice*.

228. Have a care therefore of *Projects*: And yet despise nothing rashly, or in the *Lump*.

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

229. *Ingenuity*, as well as Religion, sometimes suffers between two *Thieves*; *Pretenders* and *Despisers*.

230. Though injudicious and dishonest Projecters often discredit Art, yet the most *useful* and *extraordinary* Inventions have not, at first, escap'd the Scorn of *Ignorance*; as their Authors, rarely, have cracking of their Heads, or breaking their backs.

231. Undertake no Experiment, in Speculation, that appears not *true in Art*; nor then, at thine *own* Cost, if costly or hazardous in making.

232. As many Hands make light Work, so *several Purses* make *cheap* Experiments.

INDUSTRY

233. *Industry*, is certainly very commendable, and *supplies* the want of Parts.

234. *Patience* and *Diligence*, like Faith, *remove Mountains*.

235. Never give out while there is *Hope*; but hope not beyond Reason, for that shews more Desire than Judgment.

236. It is profitable Wisdom to know when we have done enough: Much Time and Pains are spared, in not flattering our selves against Probabilities.

TEMPORAL HAPPINESS

237. Do *Good* with what thou hast, or it will do thee *no good*.

238. Seek not to be Rich, but *Happy*. The one lies in *Bags*, the other in *Content*: which Wealth can never give.

239. We are apt to call things by *wrong* Names. We will have Prosperity to be Happiness, and Adversity to be Misery; though that is the *School* of Wisdom, and oftentimes the way to *Eternal* Happiness.

240. If thou wouldest be Happy, bring thy Mind to thy *Condition*, and have an *Indifferency* for more than what is *sufficient*.

241. Have but *little to do*, and *do*

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

*it thy self*: And do to others as thou wouldest have them *do to thee*: So, thou canst not fail of Temporal Felicity.

242. The generality are the *worse* for their *Plenty*: The Voluptuous *consumes* it, the Miser *hides* it: 'Tis the good Man that uses it, and to good Purposes. But such are *hardly* found among the Prosperous.

243. Be rather *Bountiful*, than Expensive.

244. Neither make nor go to *Feasts*, but let the *laborious Poor* bless thee at Home in their Solitary Cottages.

245. Never voluntarily *want* what thou hast in Possession; nor so spend it as to involve thyself in want *unavoidable*.

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

246. Be not tempted to *presume* by Success: For many that have got largely, have lost all, by *coveting* to get more.

247. To *hazard much* to get much, has more of *Avarice* than Wisdom.

248. It is great Prudence both to *Bound* and *Use* Prosperity.

249. Too few know when they have *Enough*; and fewer know *how* to employ it.

250. It is equally adviseable not to part *lightly* with what is hardly gotten, and not to shut up *closely* what *flows* in freely.

251. Act not the *Shark* upon thy Neighbours; nor take Advantage of the *Ignorance*, *Prodigality* or *Necessity* of any one: For that is next door



## Reflections and Maxims ❀

to *Fraud*, and, at best, makes but an *Unblest* Gain.

252. It is oftentimes the *Judgment* of God upon Greedy Rich Men, that he suffers them to push on their Desires of Wealth to the Excess of over-reaching, grinding or oppression, which *poisons* all the rest they have gotten: So that it commonly runs away as fast, and by as bad ways as it was heap'd up together.

### RESPECT

253. Never esteem *any* Man, or thy self, the *more* for Money; nor think the *meaner* of thy self or another for *want* of it: *Vertue* being the just Reason of *respecting*, and the want of it, of *slighting* any one.

## ❧ Reflections and Maxims

254. A Man like a *Watch*, is to be valued for his *Goings*.

255. He that prefers him upon other accounts, bows to an *Idol*.

256. Unless Virtue guide us, our Choice must be wrong.

257. An able bad Man, is an ill Instrument, and to be shunned as the Plague.

258. Be not deceived with the first appearances of things, but give thy self *Time* to be in the right.

259. Show, is not Substance: *Realities* Govern Wise Men.

260. Have a Care therefore where there is more Sail than Ballast.

### HAZARD

261. In all Business it is best to put nothing to hazard: But where it is

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

unavoidable, be not *rash*, but *firm* and *resign'd*.

262. We should not be troubled for what we cannot help: But if it was our Fault, let it be so *no more*. Amendment is *Repentance*, if not Reparation.

263. As a *Desperate* Game needs an *able* Gamester, so *Consideration* often would *prevent*, what the best skill in the World Cannot Recover.

264. Where the Probability of Advantage exceeds not that of Loss, Wisdom never Adventures.

265. To Shoot well *Flying* is well; but to *Chose* it, has more of *Vanity* than Judgment.

266. To be *Dextrous* in Danger is a Virtue; but to *Court* Danger to show it, is *Weakness*.

DETRACTION

267. Have a care of that base Evil *Detraction*. It is the Fruit of Envy, as that is of Pride; the immediate Offspring of the *Devil*: Who, of an *Angel*, a *Lucifer*, a *Son* of the Morning, made himself a *Serpent*, a *Devil*, a *Beelzebub*, and all that is obnoxious to the Eternal Goodness.

268. Vertue is not secure against *Envy*. Men will *Lessen* what they won't *Imitate*.

269. *Dislike* what deserves it, but never *Hate*: For that is of the Nature of Malice; which is almost ever to *Persons*, not Things, and is one of the *blackest* Qualities Sin begets in the Soul.

MODERATION

270. It were an happy Day if Men could *bound* and qualifie their Resentments with *Charity* to the Offender: For then our Anger would be *without Sin*, and better convict and edifie the Guilty; which *alone* can make it lawful.

271. Not to be provok'd is best: But if mov'd, never correct till the *Fume is spent*; For every Stroke our Fury strikes, is sure to hit our selves at last.

272. If we did but observe the Allowances our Reason makes upon Reflection, when our Passion is over, we could not want a *Rule* how to behave our selves again in the like Occasions.

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

273. We are more prone to *Complain* than Redress, and to Censure than Excuse.

274. It is next to unpardonable, that we can so often Blame what we will not *once mend*. It shews, we know, *but will not do our Master's Will*.

275. They that censure, should *Practice*: Or else let them have the *first* stone, and the *last* too.

### TRICK

276. Nothing needs a Trick but a *Trick*; Sincerity *loathes* one.

277. We must take care to do Right Things *Rightly*: For a just Sentence may be *unjustly* executed.

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

278. *Circumstances* give great Light to true Judgment, if well weigh'd.

### PASSION

279. *Passion* is a sort of *Fever* in the Mind, which ever leaves us weaker than it found us.

280. But being, intermitting to be sure, 'tis curable with care.

281. It more than any thing deprives us of the use of our *Judgment*; for it raises a *Dust* very hard to see through.

282. Like Wine, whose *Lees* fly by being *jogg'd*, it is too muddy to Drink.

283. It may not unfitly be termed the *Mob* of the Man, that commits a *Riot* upon his Reason.

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

284. I have sometimes thought, that a Passionate Man is like a *weak Spring* that cannot stand *long lock'd*.

285. And as true, that those things are unfit for use, that can't bear small Knocks, without breaking.

286. He that won't hear *can't Judge*, and he that can't bear Contradiction, may, with all his Wit, miss the Mark.

287. Objection and Debate Sift out Truth, which needs Temper as well as Judgment.

288. But above all, observe it in Resentments, for their Passion is most Extravagant.

289. Never chide for Anger, but *Instruction*.

290. He that corrects out of Passion, raises Revenge sooner than Repentance.



## Reflections and Maxims ❧

291. It has more of *Wantonness* than Wisdom, and resembles those that Eat to please their *Pallate*, rather than their Appetite.

292. It is the difference between a Wise and a Weak Man; This Judges by the *Lump*, that by *Parts* and their *Connection*.

293. The Greeks use to say, all Cases are governed by their Circumstances. The same thing may be well and ill as they change or vary the Matter.

294. A Man's Strength is shewn by his Bearing. *Bonum Agere, & Male Pati, Regis est.*

PERSONAL CAUTIONS

295. Reflect without Malice but never without *Need*.

296. Despise no Body, nor no Condition; lest it come to be thine own.

297. Never Rail nor Taunt. The one is Rude, the other Scornful, and both Evil.

298. Be not provoked by Injuries, to *commit* them.

299. Upbraid only *Ingratitude*.

300. Haste makes Work which *Caution* prevents.

301. Tempt no Man; lest thou *fall* for it.

302. Have a care of presuming upon *After-Games*: For if that miss, all is *gone*.

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

303. *Opportunities* should never be *lost*, because they can hardly be regained.

304. It is well to cure, but better to *prevent* a Distemper. The first shows more Skill, but the last more *Wisdom*.

305. Never make a *Tryal* of *Skill* in difficult or *hazardous* Cases.

306. Refuse not to be informed: For that shews Pride or Stupidity.

307. Humility and Knowledge in poor Cloaths, excel Pride and Ignorance in costly Attire.

308. Neither despise, nor oppose, what thou dost not understand.

### BALLANCE

309. We must not be concern'd above the Value of the thing that en-

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

gages us ; nor raised *above* Reason, in maintaining what we think reasonable.

310. It is too common an Error, to invert the Order of Things ; by making an *End* of that which is a *Means*, and a *Means* of that which is an *End*.

311. *Religion* and *Government* escape not this Mischief : The first is too often made a *Means* instead of an *End* ; the other an *End* instead of a *Means*.

312. Thus Men seek Wealth rather than Subsistence ; and the End of Cloaths is the least Reason of their Use. Nor is the satisfying of our Appetite our End in Eating, so much as the pleasing of our Pallate. The like may also be said of Building, Furniture, &c. where the Man rules

## Reflections and Maxims ❀

not the Beast, and Appetite submits not to Reason.

313. It is great Wisdom to proportion our Esteem to the Nature of the Thing: For as that way things will not be undervalued, so neither will they engage as *above* their intrinsick worth.

314. If we suffer little Things to have great hold upon us, we shall be *as much* transported for them, as if they deserv'd it.

315. It is an old Proverb, *Maxima bella ex levissimis causis*: The greatest Feuds have had the smallest Beginnings.

316. No matter what the Subject of the Dispute be, but what place we give it in our Minds: For that governs our Concern and Resentment.

317. It is one of the fatalest Errors

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

of our Lives, when we spoil a good Cause by an ill Management: And it is not impossible but we may *mean well* in an *ill* Business; but that will not defend it.

318. If we are but sure the End is Right, we are too apt to gallop over all Bounds to compass it; not considering that lawful Ends may be very *unlawfully* attained.

319. Let us be careful to take *just* ways to compass just Things; that they may *last* in their Benefits to us.

320. There is a troublesome Humour some Men have, that if they may not lead, *they will not follow*; but had rather a thing were never done, than not done their own way, tho' other ways very desirable.

## Reflections and Maxims ❀

321. This comes of an *over-fulness* of our selves; and shows we are more concern'd for *Praise*, than the *Success* of what we think a good Thing.

### POPULARITY

322. Affect not to be seen, and Men will *less* see thy Weakness.

323. They that shew more than they are, raise an Expectation they cannot answer; and so lose their Credit, as soon as they are *found out*.

324. Avoid *Popularity*. It has many Snares, and no real Benefit to thy self; and Uncertainty to others.

PRIVACY

325. Remember the Proverb, *Bene qui latuit, bene vixit*. They are happy that live Retiredly.

326. If this be true, *Princes* and their *Grandees*, of all Men, are the unhappiest: For they live least *alone*: And they that must be enjoyed by every Body, can never enjoy themselves as they should.

327. It is the *Advantage* little Men have upon them; they can be *Private*, and have *leisure* for Family Comforts, which are the greatest worldly Contents Men can enjoy.

328. But they that place Pleasure in *Greediness*, seek it there: And we see *Rule* is as much the Ambition of some



## Reflections and Maxims ❀

Natures, as *Privacy* is the Choice of others.

### GOVERNMENT

329. Government has many Shapes : But 'tis *Sovereignty*, tho' not Freedom, in all of them.

330. *Rex & Tyrannus* are very different Characters : One rules his People by Laws, to which they consent ; the other by his absolute Will and Power. That is call'd *Freedom*, This *Tyranny*.

331. The first is endanger'd by the Ambition of the *Popular*, which shakes the Constitution : The other by an ill Administration, which hazards the Tyrant and his Family.

332. It is great Wisdom in Princes of both sorts, not to *strain* Points too

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

high with their People: For whether the People have a Right to oppose them or not, they are ever sure to attempt it, when things are carried too far; though the Remedy oftentimes proves worse than the Disease.

333. Happy that King who is great by *Justice*, and that People who are free by *Obedience*.

334. Where the Ruler is Just, he may be *strict*; else it is *two to one* it turns upon him: And tho' he should prevail, he can be no Gainer, *where his People are the Losers*.

335. Princes must not have *Passions* in Government, nor *Resent* beyond Interest and Religion.

336. Where Example *keeps pace* with Authority, Power hardly fails to

## Reflections and Maxims ❀

be obey'd, and Magistrates to be *honour'd*.

337. Let the People think they Govern and they will be Govern'd.

338. This cannot fail, if Those they Trust, are Trusted.

339. That Prince that is just to them in great things, and Humours them sometimes in small ones, is sure to have and keep them from all the World.

340. For the People is the Politick Wife of the Prince, that may be better managed by Wisdom, than ruled by Force.

341. But where the Magistrate is partial and serves ill turns, he loses his Authority with the People; and gives the Populace opportunity to grat-

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

ifie their Ambition: And to lay a *Stumbling-block* for his People to fall.

342. It is true, that where a Subject is more Popular than the Prince, the Prince is in Danger: But it is as true, that it is his *own Fault*: For no Body has the like *Means, Interest* or *Reason*, to be popular as He.

343. It is an unaccountable thing, that some Princes incline rather to be *fear'd than lov'd*; when they see, that Fear does not oftener secure a Prince against the Dissatisfaction of his People, than Love makes a Subject *too many* for such a Prince.

344. Certainly Service upon *Inclination* is like to go *farther* than Obedience upon Compulsion.

345. The *Romans* had a just Sense of this, when they plac'd *Optimus*

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

before *Maximus*, to their most Illustrious *Captains* and *Cesars*.

346. Besides, Experience tells us, That Goodness raises a *nobler* Passion in the Soul, and gives a *better* Sense of Duty than Severity.

347. What did *Pharaoh* get by increasing the *Israelites* Task? *Ruine* to himself in the End.

348. Kings, chiefly in this, should imitate God: *Their Mercy should be above all their Works*.

349. The Difference between the *Prince* and the *Peasant*, is in this World: But a *Temper* ought to be observ'd by him that has the Advantage here, because of the Judgment in the next.

350. The End of every thing should direct the Means: Now that of Gov-

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

ernment being the *Good of the whole*, nothing less should be the *Aim* of the Prince.

351. As often as Rulers endeavour to attain just Ends by just *Mediums*, they are sure of a *quiet* and easy Government; and as sure of Convulsions, where the *Nature* of things are violated, and their *Order* overrul'd.

352. It is certain, Princes ought to have great *Allowances* made them for Faults in Government; since they see by other People's Eyes, and hear by their Ears. But *Ministers of State*, their immediate Confidants and Instruments, have much to answer for, if to gratifie private Passions, they misguide the Prince to do publick Injury.

353. Ministers of State should undertake their Posts at *their Peril*. If

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

Princes overrule them, let them shew the *Law*, and humbly *resign*: If *Fear* *Gain* or *Flattery* prevail, let them answer it to the *Law*.

354. The Prince cannot be preserv'd, but where the Minister is punishable: For People, as well as Princes, will not endure *Imperium in Imperio*.

355. If Ministers are weak or ill Men, and so spoil their Places, it is the *Prince's* Fault that chose them: But if their Places spoil them, it is *their own Fault* to be made worse by them.

356. It is but just that those that reign by their Princes, should suffer for their Princes: For it is a safe and necessary Maxim, not to shift Heads

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

in Government, while the Hands are in being that should answer for them.

357. And yet it were *intolerable* to be a Minister of State, if every Body may be Accuser and Judge.

358. Let therefore the *false Accuser* no more escape an exemplary Punishment, than the Guilty Minister.

359. For it *profanes* Government to have the *Credit* of the leading Men in it, subject to *vulgar* Censure; which is often *ili grounded*.

360. The Safety of a Prince, therefore consists in a well-chosen Council: And that only can be said to be so, where the Persons that compose it are *qualified* for the Business that comes before them.

361. Who would send to a *Taylor*



## Reflections and Maxims ❀

to make a *Lock*, or to a *Smith* to make a *Suit of Cloaths*?

362. Let there be *Merchants* for Trade, *Seamen* for the Admiralty, *Travellers* for Foreign Affairs, some of the *Leading Men* of the Country for Home-Business, and *Common* and *Civil Lawyers* to advise of *Legality* and *Right*: Who should always keep to the strict Rules of *Law*.

363. Three Things contribute much to ruin Governments; *Looseness*, *Oppression* and *Envy*.

364. Where the Reins of Government are too *slack*, there the Manners of the People are *corrupted*: And that destroys Industry, begets Effeminacy, and provokes *Heaven* against it.

365. *Oppression* makes a *Poor*

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

Country, and a *Desperate* People, who always wait an Opportunity to *change*.

366. *He that ruleth over Men, must be just, ruling in the Fear of God,* said an old and a wise King.

367. *Envy disturbs and distracts Government, clogs the Wheels, and perplexes the Administration: And nothing contributes more to the Disorder, than a partial distribution of Rewards and Punishments in the Sovereign.*

368. As it is not reasonable that Men should be compell'd to serve; so those that have Employments should not be endured to leave them humourously.

369. Where the State intends a Man no Affront, he should not Affront the State.

A PRIVATE LIFE

370. A private Life is to be prefer'd; the Honour and Gain of publick Posts, bearing no proportion with the Comfort of it. The one is *free* and *quiet*, the other *servile* and *noisy*.

371. It was a great Answer of the *Shunamite* Woman, *I dwell among my own People*.

372. They that live of their *own*, neither need, nor often list to wear the *Livery* of the Publick.

373. Their Subsistance is not *during Pleasure*; nor have they patrons to please or present.

374. If they are not advanced, neither can they be *disgraced*. And as they know not the Smiles of Majesty,

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

so they *feel not* the Frowns of Greatness; or the Effects of Envy.

375. If they want the Pleasures of a Court, they also escape the *Temptations* of it.

376. Private Men, in fine, are so much their own, that paying common Dues, they are *Sovereigns* of all the rest.

### A PUBLICK LIFE

377. Yet the Publick must and will be served; and they that do it well, deserve publick Marks of Honour and Profit.

378. To do so, Men must have *publick Minds*, as well as Salaries; or they will serve *private Ends* at the Publick Cost.

379. Governments can never be well

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

administered, but where those entrusted make *Conscience* of well discharging their Place.

### QUALIFICATIONS

380. Five Things are requisite to a good Officer; *Ability, Clean Hands, Dispatch, Patience and Impartiality.*

### CAPACITY

381. He that understands not his Employment, whatever else he knows, must be unfit for it, and the Publick suffers by his Inexpertness.

382. They that are able, should be *just* too; or the Government may be the *worse* for their Capacity.

## CLEAN HANDS

383. *Covetousness* in such Men prompts them to prostitute the Publick for Gain.

384. The taking of a *Bribe* or *Gratuity*, should be punished with as severe Penalties, as the defrauding of the State.

385. Let Men have sufficient Salaries, and exceed them at their *Peril*.

386. It is a Dishonour to Government, that its Officers should live of Benevolence; as it ought to be Infamous for Officers to dishonour the Publick, by being *twice* paid for the same Business.

387. But to be paid, and not to do Business, is *rank* Oppression.

DISPATCH

388. *Dispatch* is a great and good Quality in an Officer; where Duty, not Gain, excites it. But of this, too many make their private Market and *Overplus* to their Wages. Thus the Salary is for *doing*, and the *Bribe* for *dispatching* the Business: As if Business could be done before it were dispatched: Or what ought to be done, ought not to be dispatch'd: Or they were to be paid apart, one by the Government, t'other by the Party.

389. *Dispatch* is as much the Duty of an Officer, as doing; and very much the *Honour* of the Government he serves.

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

390. *Delays* have been *more injurious* than direct Injustice.

391. They too often starve those they dare not deny.

392. The very Winner is made a *Loser*, because he pays *twice* for his own; like those that purchase Estates Mortgaged before to the full Value.

393. Our Law says well, to delay Justice is Injustice.

394. Not to have a Right, and not to come at it, differs little.

395. Refuse or Dispatch is the Duty and Wisdom of a good Officer.

### PATIENCE

396. *Patience* is a Virtue every where; but it *shines* with great Lustre in the Men of Government.



## Reflections and Maxims ❧

397. Some are so Proud or Testy, they won't hear what they should redress.

398. Others so weak, they sink or burst under the weight of their Office, though they can lightly *run away* with the Salary of it.

399. Business can never be well done, that is not well understood: Which cannot be without Patience.

400. It is Cruelty indeed not to give the Unhappy an *Hearing*, whom we ought to help: But it is the top of Oppression to *Browbeat* the humble and modest Miserable, when they seek Relief.

401. Some, it is true, are unreasonable in their Desires and Hopes: But then we should inform, not *rail* at and *reject* them.

## ✧ Reflections and Maxims

402. It is therefore as great an Instance of Wisdom as a Man in Business can give, to be *Patient under the Impertinencies and Contradictions that attend it.*

403. *Method* goes far to prevent Trouble in Business: For it makes the Task easy, hinders Confusion, saves abundance of Time, and instructs those that have Business depending, both what to do and what to hope.

### IMPARTIALITY

404. *Impartiality*, though it be the last, is not the least Part of the Character of a good Magistrate.

405. It is noted as a Fault, in *Holy Writ*, even to regard the *Poor*: How much more the *Rich* in Judgment?

## Reflections and Maxims ❀

406. If our *Compassions* must not sway us ; less should our Fears, Profits or Prejudices.

407. Justice is justly represented *Blind*, because she sees no Difference in the Parties concerned.

408. She has but one *Scale and Weight*, for Rich and Poor, Great and Small.

409. Her Sentence is not guided by the Person, but the *Cause*.

410. The *Impartial* Judge in Judgment, knows nothing but the Law : The Prince *no more* than the Peasant, his Kindred than a Stranger. Nay, his *Enemy* is sure to be upon equal Terms with his Friend, when he is upon the Bench.

411. Impartiality is the *Life* of Justice, as that is of Government.

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

412. Nor is it only a Benefit to the State, for private Families cannot subsist comfortably without it.

413. Parents that are partial, are ill obeyed by their Children; and partial Masters not better served by their Servants.

414. Partiality is always *Indirect*, if not Dishonest: For it shews a *Byass* where Reason would have none; if not an *Injury*, which Justice every where forbids.

415. As it makes Favourites without Reason, so it uses no Reason in judging of Actions: Confirming the Proverb, *The Crow thinks her own Bird the fairest*.

416. What some see to be no Fault in one, they will have *Criminal* in another.

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

417. Nay, how *ugly* do our own Failings look to us in the Persons of *others*, which yet we see not in our selves.

418. And but too common it is for some People, not to know their *own Maxims* and *Principles* in the *Mouths* of other Men, when they give occasion to use them.

419. *Partiality* corrupts our Judgment of Persons and things, of our selves and others.

420. It contributes more than any thing to *Factions* in Government, and *Fewds* in Families.

421. It is prodigal Passion, that seldom returns 'till it is *Hunger-bit*, and Disappointments bring it within bounds.

422. And yet we may be indifferent, to a *Fault*.

## INDIFFERENCY

423. *Indifference* is good in Judgment, but bad in *Relation*, and stark nought in *Religion*.

424. And even in Judgment, our Indifferency must be to the *Persons*, not *Causes*: For one, to be sure, is right.

## NEUTRALITY

425. *Neutrality* is something else than Indifferency; and yet of kin to it too.

426. A Judge ought to be Indifferent, and yet he cannot be said to be Neutral.

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

427. The one being to be *Even* in Judgment, and the other *not to meddle at all*.

428. And where it is Lawful, to be sure, it is best to be *Neutral*.

429. He that espouses Parties, can hardly divorce himself from their Fate; and more *fall* with their Party than rise with it.

430. A wise Neuter joins with neither; but *uses* both, as his honest Interest leads him.

431. A *Neuter* only has room to be a *Peace-maker*: For being of neither side, he has the Means of mediating a *Reconciliation* of both.

A PARTY

432. And yet, where *Right* or *Religion* gives a *Call*, a Neuter must be a *Coward* or an *Hypocrite*.

433. In such Cases we should never be backward; nor yet mistaken.

434. When our *Right* or *Rèligion* is in question, *then* is the fittest time to assert it.

435. Nor must we always be Neutral where our Neighbours are concerned: For tho' *Medling* is a Fault, *Helping* is a *Duty*.

436. We have a *Call* to do good, as often as we have the *Power* and *Occasion*.

437. If Heathens could say, *We are not born for our selves*; surely Christians should *practise* it.



## Reflections and Maxims ❧

438. They are taught so by his Example, as well as Doctrine, from whom they have borrowed their Name.

### OSTENTATION

439. Do what good thou canst unknown; and be not vain of what ought rather to be felt, than seen.

440. The *Humble*, in the Parable of the Day of Judgment, *forgot* their good Works; *Lord, when did we do so and so?*

441. He that does Good, for Good's sake, seeks neither *Praise* nor *Reward*; tho' *sure* of both at last.

### COMPLEAT VIRTUE

442. Content not thy self that thou art Virtuous in the general: For *one*

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

*Link* being wanting, the Chain is defective.

443. Perhaps thou art rather *Innocent* than *Virtuous*, and owest more to thy Constitution, than thy *Religion*.

444. Innocent, is not to be Guilty : But *Virtuous* is to *overcome* our evil Inclinations.

445. If thou hast not conquer'd thy self in that which is thy *own particular* Weakness, thou hast no Title to Virtue, tho' thou art free of other Men's.

446. For a Covetous Man to inveigh against *Prodigality*, an Atheist against *Idolatry*, a Tyrant against *Rebellion*, or a Lyer against *Forgery*, and a Drunkard against *Intemperance*, is for the Pot to call the Kettle *black*.

447. Such Reproof would have but

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

little Success; because it would carry but little *Authority* with it.

448. If thou wouldst conquer thy Weakness, thou must *never gratify* it.

449. No Man is compelled to Evil; his *Consent only* makes it his.

450. 'Tis no Sin to be tempted, but to be overcome.

451. What Man in his right Mind, would conspire his own hurt? Men are beside themselves, when they transgress their Convictions.

452. If thou would'st not Sin, *don't Desire*; and if thou would'st not Lust, *don't Embrace* the Temptation: No, not *look* at it, nor *think* of it.

453. Thou would'st take much Pains to save thy Body: Take some, prithee, to save thy Soul.

RELIGION

454. Religion is the *Fear of God*, and its Demonstration on *good Works*; and Faith is the *Root* of both: *For without Faith we cannot please God*, nor can we fear what we do not believe.

455. The *Devils* also believe and know abundance: But in this is the Difference, their Faith works not *by Love*, nor their Knowledge *by Obedience*; and therefore they are never the better for them. And if ours be such, we shall be of *their Church*, not of *Christ's*: For as the Head is, so must the Body be.

456. He was *Holy, Humble, Harmless, Meek, Merciful, &c.* when among

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

us; to teach us what we should be, when he was gone. And yet he is among us still, and in us too, a living and perpetual *Preacher* of the same Grace, by his *Spirit* in our Consciences.

457. A *Minister* of the Gospel ought to be one of *Christ's making*, if he would pass for one of Christ's Ministers.

458. And if he be one of his making, he *Knows* and *Does* as well as Believes.

459. That Minister whose Life is not the *Model* of his Doctrine, is a *Babler* rather than a Preacher; a *Quack* rather than a Physician of Value.

460. Of old Time they were made Ministers by the *Holy Ghost*: And the

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

more that is an *Ingredient* now, the fitter they are for that Work.

461. Running Streams are not so apt to corrupt; nor *Itinerant*, as settled Preachers: But they are not to run *before* they are sent.

462. As they *freely* receive from Christ, so they give.

463. They will not make that a Trade, which they know ought not, *in Conscience*, to be one.

464. Yet there is no fear of their Living that *design* not to live by it.

465. The humble and true Teacher meets with more than he expects.

466. He accounts Content with Godliness great Gain, and therefore seeks not to *make a Gain of Godliness*.

467. As the Ministers of Christ are

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

made by him, and are like him, so they beget People into the same Likeness.

468. To be like Christ then, is to be a Christian. And Regeneration is the only way to the Kingdom of God, which we pray for.

469. Let us *to Day, therefore, hear his Voice, and not harden our Hearts;* who speaks to us many ways. In the *Scriptures*, in our *Hearts*, by his *Servants* and his *Providences*: And the Sum of all is HOLINESS and CHARITY.

470. St. *James* gives a short Draught of this Matter, but very full and reaching, *Pure Religion and undefiled before God the Father, is this, to visit the Fatherless and the Widows in their Affliction, and to keep our selves unspotted from the World.* Which is

compriz'd in these Two Words, CHARITY and PIETY.

471. They that truly make these their *Aim*, will find them their *Attainment*; and with them, the *Peace* that follows so excellent a Condition.

472. Amuse not thy self therefore with the *numerous* Opinions of the World, nor value thy self upon *verbal* Orthodoxy, Philosophy, or thy Skill in Tongues, or Knowledge of the Fathers; (too much the *Business* and *Vanity* of the World). But in this rejoyce, *That thou knowest God, that is the Lord, who exerciseth loving Kindness, and Judgment, and Righteousness in the Earth.*

473. *Publick Worship* is very commendable, if well performed. We owe it to God and good Example. But we



## Reflections and Maxims ❧

must know, that God is not tyed to Time or Place, who is *every where* at the same Time: And this we shall know, as far as we are capable, if where ever we are, our Desires are *to be with him*.

474. *Serving God*, People generally confine to the Acts of *Publick* and *Private Worship*: And those, the more zealous do oftener repeat, in hopes of Acceptance.

475. But if we consider that God is an *Infinite Spirit*, and, as such, every where; and that our Saviour has taught us, *That he will be worshipped in Spirit and in Truth*; we shall see the shortness of such a Notion.

476. For serving God concerns the *Frame* of our Spirits, in the whole Course of our Lives; in every Occa-

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

sion we have, in which we may shew our Love to his Law.

477. For as Men in Battle are continually in the way of shot, so we, in this World, are ever within the Reach of *Temptation*. And herein do we serve God, if we *avoid* what we are forbid, as well as *do* what he commands.

478. God is better served in resisting a Temptation to Evil, than in many formal Prayers.

479. This is but Twice or Thrice a Day; but That every Hour and Moment of the Day. So much more is our *continual Watch*, than our Evening and Morning Devotion.

480. Wouldst thou then serve God? *Do not that alone, which thou wouldest not that another should see thee do.*

## Reflections and Maxims ❀

481. Don't take God's Name in *vain*, or disobey thy *Parents*, or wrong thy *Neighbour*, or commit *Adultery*, even in thine *Heart*.

482. Neither be *vain*, *Lascivious*, *Proud*, *Drunken*, *Revengeful* or *Angry*: Nor *Lye*, *Detract*, *Backbite*, *Over-reach*, *Oppress*, *Deceive* or *Betray*: But *watch* vigorously against all *Temptations* to these Things; as knowing that God is *present*, the *Over-seer* of all thy Ways and most inward Thoughts, and the *Avenger* of his own Law upon the Disobedient, and thou wilt acceptably serve God.

483. It is not reason, if we expect the Acknowledgments of those to whom we are bountiful, that we should reverently pay ours to God, our most *magnificent* and *constant Benefactor*?

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

484. The *World* represents a Rare and Sumptuous *Palace*, Mankind the great *Family* in it, and God the mighty *Lord* and *Master* of it.

485. We are all sensible what a stately *Seat* it is: The *Heavens* adorned with so many glorious *Luminaries*; and the *Earth* with *Groves*, *Plains*, *Valleys*, *Hills*, *Fountains*, *Ponds*, *Lakes* and *Rivers*; and *Variety of Fruits*, and *Creatures for Food*, *Pleasure* and *Profit*. In short, how *Noble an House* he keeps, and the *Plenty* and *Variety* and *Excellency* of his *Table*; his *Orders*, *Seasons* and *Suitableness* of every *Time* and *Thing*. But we must be as sensible, or at least ought to be, what *Careless* and *Idle Servants* we are, and how *short* and *disproportionable* our *Behaviour* is to

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

his Bounty and Goodness: How long he bears, and often he *reprieves* and *forgives* us: Who, notwithstanding our Breach of Promises, and repeated Neglects, has not yet been *provok'd* to break up House, and send us to *shift* for ourselves. Should not this great Goodness raise a due Sense in us of our Undutifulness, and a Resolution to *alter* our Course and *mend* our Manners; that we may be for the future *more worthy Communicants* at our Master's good and great Table? Especially since it is not more certain that we deserve his Displeasure than that we should feel it, if we continue to be *unprofitable Servants*.

486. But tho' God has replenisht this World with abundance of good Things for Man's Life and Comfort, yet they

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

are all but *Imperfect* Goods. He only is the *Perfect* Good to whom they point. But alas! Men cannot see him *for them*; tho' they should always see him *In them*.

487. I have often wondered at the *unaccountableness* of Man in this, among other things; that tho' he loves *Changes* so well, he should care so little to hear or think of his *last, great, and best Change too, if he pleases*.

488. Being, as to our Bodies, composed of *changeable Elements*, we with the World, are made up of, and subsist by *Revolution*: But our *Souls* being of another and *nobler* Nature, we should seek our *Rest* in a *more induring* Habitation.

489. The truest end of Life, is, to know the Life that *never ends*.

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

490. He that makes this his *Care*, will find it his *Crown* at last.

491. Life else, were a *Misery* rather than a *Pleasure*, a *Judgment*, not a *Blessing*.

492. For to *Know*, *Regret* and *Re-sent*; to *Desire*, *Hope* and *Fear* more than a *Beast*, and not live beyond him, is to make a *Man less than a Beast*.

493. It is the *Amends* of a short and troublesome *Life*, that *Doing well*, and *Suffering ill*, Entitles *Man* to One *Longer* and *Better*.

494. This ever raises the *Good Man's Hope*, and gives him *Tastes* beyond the other *World*.

495. As 'tis his *Aim*, so none else can hit the *Mark*.

496. Many make it their *Speculation*, but 'tis the *Good Man's Practice*.

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

497. His Work keeps Pace with his Life, and so leaves nothing to be done when He Dies.

498. And he that lives to live ever, never fears dying.

499. Nor can the Means be *terrible* to him that heartily believes the End.

500. For tho' *Death* be a *Dark* Passage, it leads to Immortality, and that's Recompence enough for Suffering of it.

501. And yet Faith *Lights* us, even *through the Grave*, being the *Evidence* of Things not seen.

502. And this is the Comfort of the Good, that the Grave cannot *hold* them, and that they live as soon as they die.

503. For Death is no more than a



## Reflections and Maxims ❧

*Turning* of us over from Time to Eternity.

504. Nor can there be a Revolution without it ; for it supposes the Dissolution of one form, in order to the Succession of another.

505. *Death* then, being the *Way* and *Condition* of Life, we cannot love to live, if we cannot bear to die.

506. Let us then not cozen our selves with the *Shells* and *Husks* of things ; nor prefer *Form* to Power, nor *Shadows* to Substance : *Pictures* of Bread will not *satisfie* Hunger, nor *those* of Devotion *please* God.

507. This World is a Form ; our Bodies are Forms ; and no visible Acts of Devotion can be without Forms. But yet the less Form in Religion the better, since God is a

Spirit: For the more *mental* our Worship, the more *adequate* to the Nature of God; the more *silent*, the more *suitable* to the Language of a *Spirit*.

508. Words are for others, not for our selves: Nor for God, who hears not as Bodies do; but as Spirits should.

509. If we would know this *Dialect*; we must learn of the Divine Principle in us. As we hear the Dictates of that, so *God hears us*.

510. There we may see him too in all his Attributes; Tho' but in *little*, yet as much as we can apprehend or bear: for as he is in himself, he is incomprehensible, and *dwelleth in that Light which no Eye can approach*. But in his *Image* we may behold his Glory; enough to exalt our Apprehen-

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

sions of God, and to instruct us in that Worship which pleaseth him.

511. Men may *Tire* themselves in a *Labyrinth* of Search, and talk of God: But if we would know him indeed, it must be from the *Impressions* we receive of him; and the softer our Hearts are, the *deeper* and *livelier* those will be upon us.

512. If he has made us sensible of his Justice, by his *Reproof*; of his Patience, by his *Forbearance*; of his Mercy, by his *Forgiveness*; of his Holiness, by the *Sanctification* of our Hearts through his Spirit; we have a *grounded* Knowledge of God. This is *Experience*, that *Speculation*; This *Enjoyment*, that *Report*. In short, this is *undeniable* Evidence, with the

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

*realities* of Religion, and will stand all Winds and Weathers.

513. As our Faith, so our *Devotion* should be *lively*. *Cold Meat* won't serve at those Repasts.

514. It's a *Coal* from God's Altar must kindle our Fire: And without Fire, *true Fire*, no acceptable Sacrifice.

515. *Open thou my Lips, and then*, said the Royal Prophet, *My Mouth shall praise God*. But not 'till then.

516. The *Preparation* of the Heart, as well as *Answer* of the Tongue, is of the Lord: And to have it, our Prayers must be powerful, and our Worship grateful.

517. Let us chuse, therefore, to commune where there is the *warmest* Sense of Religion; where *Devotion exceeds* Formality, and *Practice* most

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

corresponds with Profession; and where there is at least *as much Charity* as Zeal: For where this Society is to be found, there shall we find the Church of God.

518. As Good, so Ill Men are all of a *Church*; and every Body knows who must be *Head* of it.

519. The *Humble, Meek, Merciful, Just, Pious* and *Devout* Souls, are everywhere of one Religion; and when Death has taken off the *Mask*, they will know one another, tho' the divers *Liveries* they wear here makes them *Strangers*.

520. Great *Allowances* are to be made of Education, and personal Weaknesses: But 'tis a Rule with me, that Man is truly Religious, that loves

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

the Persuasion he is of, for the Piety rather than Ceremony of it.

521. They that have one End, can hardly disagree when they meet. At least their concern in the Greater, *moderates* the value and difference about the lesser things.

522. It is a sad Reflection, that many Men hardly have *any Religion at all*; and most Men have none of their *own*: For that which is the Religion of their Education, and not of their Judgment, is the Religion of *Another*, and not *Theirs*.

523. To have Religion upon Authority, and not upon Conviction, is like a *Finger Watch*, to be set forwards or backwards, as he pleases that has it in keeping. .

524. It is a Preposterous thing, that

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

Men can venture their Souls where they will not venture their Money: For they will take their Religion upon trust, but not trust a *Synod* about the Goodness of Half a Crown.

525. They will follow their own Judgment when their Money is concerned, whatever they do for their Souls.

526. But to be sure, that Religion cannot be right, that a Man is the *worse* for having.

527. No Religion is better than an *Unnatural One*.

528. Grace perfects, but never *sours* or *spoils* Nature.

529. To be *Unnatural* in Defence of *Grace*, is a Contradiction.

530. Hardly any thing looks *worse*,

than to defend Religion by ways that shew it has *no Credit* with us.

531. A Devout Man is one thing, a *Stickler* is quite another.

532. When our Minds exceed their just Bounds, we must needs *discredit* what we would recommend.

533. To be Furious in Religion, is to be *Irreligiously* Religious.

534. If he that is *without Bowels*, is not a Man; How then can he be a Christian?

535. It were better to *be* of no Church, than to *be bitter* for any.

536. *Bitterness* comes very near to *Enmity*, and that is *Beelzebub*; because the *Perfection* of Wickedness.

537. A good End cannot *sanctifie* evil Means; nor must we ever do *Evil*, that Good may come of it.



## Reflections and Maxims ❀

538. Some Folks think they may *Scold, Rail, Hate, Rob and Kill* too; so it be but *for God's sake*.

539. But nothing in us *unlike* him, can please him.

540. It is as great Presumption *to send our Passions upon God's Errands*, as it is to *palliate* them with God's Name.

541. Zeal dropped in *Charity*, is good, without it *good for nothing*: For it devours all it comes near.

542. They must *first* judge themselves, that presume to censure others: And such will not be apt to *overshoot* the Mark.

543. We are too ready to *retaliate*, rather than forgive, or gain by Love and Information.

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

544. And yet we could hurt no Man that we believe *loves* us.

545. Let us then try what *Love* will do: For if Men did *once see* we Love them, we should *soon find* they would not harm us.

546. Force may subdue, but *Love* gains: And he that *forgives first*, wins the *Lawrel*.

547. If I am even with my Enemy, the Debt is *paid*; But if I forgive it, I *oblige* him for ever.

548. *Love* is the hardest Lesson in Christianity; but, for that reason, it should be most our care to learn it. *Difficilia quae Pulchra*.

549. It is a severe Rebuke upon us, that God makes us so many Allowances, and we make so few to our Neighbour: *As if Charity had noth-*

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

*ing to do with Religion; Or Love with Faith, that ought to work by it.*

550. I find all sorts of People *agree*, whatsoever were their Animosities, when *humbled* by the Approaches of Death: *Then they forgive, then they pray for, and love one another*: Which shews us, that it is not our Reason, but our *Passion*, that makes and holds up the *Feuds* that reign among men in their Health and Fulness. They, therefore, that live *nearest* to that which they should die, must certainly live *best*.

551. Did we believe a final Reckoning and Judgment; or did we think *enough* of what we do *believe*, we would allow *more Love* in Religion than we do; since *Religion* it self is

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

nothing else but *Love* to God and Man.

552. *He that lives in Love lives in God*, says the Beloved Disciple: And to be sure a Man can live *no where better*.

553. It is most reasonable Men should value that Benefit, which is most *durable*. Now Tongues shall cease, and Prophecy fail, and *Faith* shall be *consummated* in Sight, and Hope in Enjoyment; but *Love remains*.

554. Love is indeed Heaven upon Earth; since Heaven above would not be Heaven without it: For where there is not Love; there is Fear: But *perfect Love casts out Fear*. And yet we naturally *fear most* to offend what we *most Love*.

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

555. What we Love, we'll Hear; what we Love, we'll Trust; and what we Love, we'll serve, ay, and suffer for too. *If you love me* (says our Blessed Redeemer) *keep my Commandments*. Why? Why then he'll *Love us*; then we shall be his *Friends*; then he'll send us the *Comforter*; then whatsoever we ask, we shall receive; and then where he is *we shall be also, and that for ever*. Behold the Fruits of *Love*; the *Power, Vertue, Benefit* and *Beauty* of *Love*!

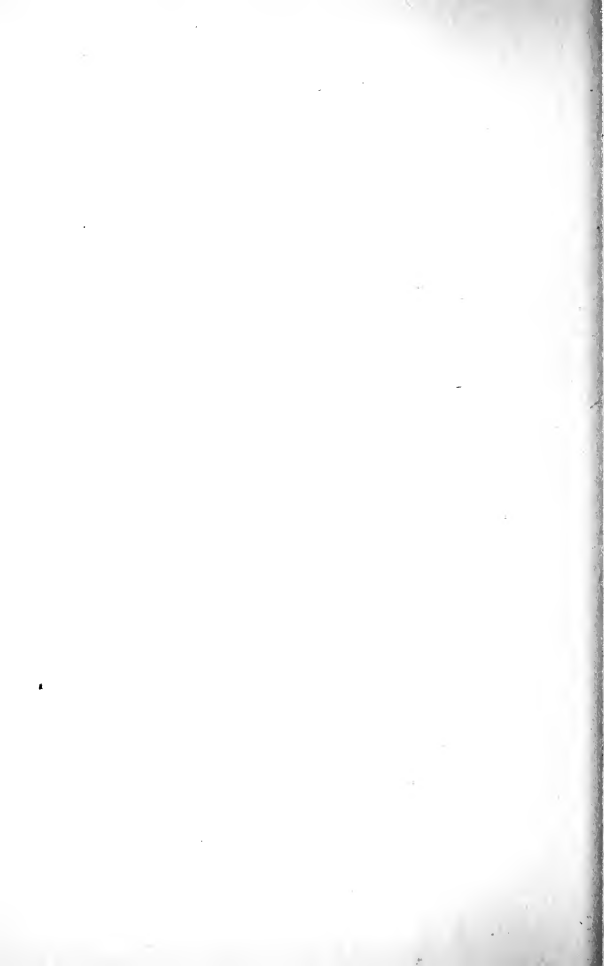
556. *Love* is above all; and when it prevails in us all, we shall all be *Lovely*, and in Love with *God* and *one* with *another*.

*Amen.*

FINIS.



## Part II.





## The Introduction to the Reader

THE Title of this TREATISE shows, there was a *former* of the same Nature; and the Author hopes he runs no Hazard in recommending *both* to his Reader's Perusal. He is well aware of the *low* Reckoning the Labours of *indifferent* Authors are under, at a Time when hardly any Thing passes for current, that is not calculated to *flatter* the Sharpness of contending Parties. He is also sensible, that Books grow a very *Drug*, where they cannot raise and support their

## ✻ The Introduction

Credit, by their own Usefulness; and how far this will be able to do it, he knows not; yet he thinks himself tolerably safe in making it publick, in three Respects.

*First*, That the *Purchase* is *small*, and the *Time* but *little*, that is requisite to read it.

*Next*, Though some Men should not find it relish'd *high enough* for their finer Wits, or warmer Pallats, it will not perhaps be *useless* to those of lower Flights, and who are less engaged in publick Heats.

*Lastly*, The Author honestly aims at as general a Benefit as the Thing will bear; to YOUTH especially, whether he hits the Mark or not: And that without the least Ostentation, or any private Regards.

## The Introduction ❧

Let not Envy misinterpret his Intention, and he will be accountable for all other Faults.

VALE.

1841

1842

1843

1844

1845

1846

1847

1848

1849

1850

1851

1852

1853

1854

1855

1856

1857

1858

1859

1860

1861

1862

1863

# More Fruits of Solitude

BEING

## The Second Part of Reflections and Maxims

### THE RIGHT MORALIST

1. A RIGHT Moralist, is a Great and Good Man, but for that Reason he is *rarely* to be found.

2. There are a Sort of People, that are *fond* of the Character, who, in my Opinion, have but little Title to it.

3. They think it enough, not to *defraud* a Man of his Pay, or *betray*

his Friend; but never consider, That the Law forbids the one at his Peril, and that Virtue is *seldom* the Reason of the other.

4. But certainly he that *Covets*, can no more be a Moral Man, than he that *Steals*; since he does so in his Mind. Nor can he be one that Robs his Neighbour of his *Credit*, or that craftily undermines him of his *Trade* or *Office*.

5. If a Man pays his Taylor, but Debauches his Wife; Is he a current Moralist?

6. But what shall we say of the Man that *Rebels* against his Father, is an *Ill Husband*, or an *Abusive Neighbour*; one that's *Lavish* of his Time, of his Health. and of his Estate, in which his Family is so nearly concerned? Must he go for a Right

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

Moralist, because he pays his Rent well?

7. I would ask some of those Men of Morals, Whether he that Robs *God* and *Himself* too, tho' he should not defraud his Neighbour, be the Moral Man?

8. Do I owe my self Nothing? And do I not owe All to God? And if paying what we owe, makes the Moral Man, is it not fit we should begin to render our Dues, where we owe our very Beginning; ay, our *All*?

9. The *Compleat* Moralist begins with *God*; he gives him his Due, his *Heart*, his *Love*, his *Service*; the Bountiful Giver of his *Well-Being*, as well as Being.

10. He that lives without a Sense of this Dependency and Obligation, can-

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

not be a Moral Man, because he does not make his Returns of Love and Obedience; as becomes an honest and a sensible Creature: Which very Term Implies he is not his own; and it cannot be very honest to mis-employ another's Goods.

11. But can there be no Debt, but to a fellow Creature? Or, will our Exactness in paying those *Dribbling* ones, while we neglect our weightier Obligations, Cancel the Bonds we lie under, and render us right and thorough Moralists?

12. As *Judgments* are paid before *Bonds*, and *Bonds* before *Bills* or *Book-Debts*, so the Moralist considers his Obligations according to their several *Dignities*.

In the first Place, *Him* to whom he



## Reflections and Maxims ❧

owes himself. Next, *himself*, in his Health and Livelihood. Lastly, His other Obligations, whether *Rational* or *Pecuniary*; doing to others, to the Extent of his Ability, as he would have them do unto him.

13. In short, The *Moral Man* is he that *Loves God above All, and his Neighbour as himself*, which fulfils both Tables at once.

### THE WORLD'S ABLE MAN

14. It is by some thought, the Character of an Able Man, to be *Dark and not Understood*. But I am sure that is not fair Play.

15. If he be so by *Silence*, 'tis better; but if by *Disguises*, 'tis *insincere* and *hateful*.

## ❧ Reflections and Maxims

16. Secrecy is one Thing, *false Lights* is another.

17. The honest Man, that is rather free, than open, is ever to be prefer'd; especially when *Sense* is at Helm.

18. The Glorifying of the other Humour is in a *Vice*: For it is not Humane to be *Cold, Dark* and *Unconversable*. I was a going to say, they are like *Pick-Pockets* in a Crowd, where a Man must ever have his *Hand* on his Purse; or as *Spies* in a Garrison, that if not prevented betrays it.

19. They are the *Reverse* of Human Nature, and yet this is the present World's *Wise Man* and Politician: Excellent Qualities for *Lapland*, where, they say, Witches, though not many Conjurors, dwell.

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

20. Like *Highway-Men*, that rarely Rob without *Vizards*, or in the *same* Wigs and Cloaths, but have a *Dress* for every Enterprize.

21. At best, he may be a *Cunning* Man, which is a sort of *Lurcher* in the Politicks.

22. He is never too hard for the *Wise* Man upon the *Square*, for that is out of his Element, and puts him quite by his Skill. Nor are *Wise Men* ever catch'd by him, but when they trust him.

23. But as *Cold* and *Close* as he seems, he can and will please all, if he gets by it, though it should neither please God nor himself at bottom.

24. He is for every Cause that brings him Gain, but Implacable if disappointed of Success.

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

25. And what he cannot hinder, he will be sure to Spoil, by over-doing it.

26. None so *Zealous* then as he, for that which he cannot abide.

27. What is it he will not, or cannot do, to hide his true Sentiments.

28. For his Interest, he refuses no Side or Party; and will take the *Wrong* by the Hand, when t'other wont do, with as *good* a *Grace* as the Right.

29. Nay, he commonly chooses the Worst, because that brings the best Bribe: His Cause being ever Money.

30. He Sails with all *Winds*, and is never out of his Way, where any Thing is to be had.

31. A *Privateer* indeed, and everywhere a very Bird of *Prey*.

32. True to nothing but *himself*,

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

and false to all Persons and Parties, to serve his own Turn.

33. Talk with him as often as you please, he will never pay you in good Coin; for 'tis either *False* or *Clipt*.

34. But to give a *False* Reason for any Thing, let my Reader never learn of him, no more than to give a Brass Half-Crown for a good one: Not only because it is not true, but because it *Deceives* the Person to whom it is given; which I take to be an *Immorality*.

35. *Silence* is much more preferable, for it *saves* the Secret, as well as the Person's Honour.

36. Such as give themselves the Latitude of saying what they do not mean, come to be *errant Jockeys* at

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

more Things than one ; but in *Religion* and *Politicks*, 'tis most pernicious.

37. To hear two Men talk the *Reverse* of their own Sentiments, with all the good Breeding and Appearance of Friendship imaginable, on purpose to *Cozen* or *Pump* each other, is to a Man of *Virtue* and *Honour*, one of the Melancholiest, as well as most Nauseous Thing in the *World*.

38. But that it should be the Character of an Able Man, is to *Disinherit Wisdom*, and Paint out our Degeneracy to the Life, by setting up Fraud, an errant *Impostor*, in her Room.

39. The Tryal of Skill between these two is, who shall believe *least* of what t'other says ; and he that has the *Weakness*, or good Nature to *give* out

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

*first, (viz. to believe any Thing t'other says) is look'd upon to be Trick'd.*

40. I cannot see the *Policy*, any more than the *Necessity*, of a Man's Mind always giving the Lye to his Mouth, or his Mouth ever giving the false Alarms of his Mind: For no Man can be long believed, that teaches all Men to distrust him; and since the Ablest have sometimes need of Credit, where lies the Advantage of their Politick *Cant* or *Banter* upon Mankind?

41. I remember a Passage of one of Queen *Elizabeth's* Great Men, as Advice to his Friend; *The Advantage*, says he, *I had upon others at Court, was, that I always spoke as I thought, which being not believed by them, I both preserv'd a good Conscience, and suffered no Damage from that Free-*

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

*dom*: Which, as it shows the Vice to be Older than our Times, so that Gallant Man's Integrity, to be the best Way of avoiding it.

42. To be sure it is wise, as well as Honest, neither to flatter other Men's Sentiments, nor *Dissemble* and less *Contradict* our own.

43. To hold ones Tongue, or speak Truth, or talk only of indifferent Things, is the *Fairest* Conversation.

44. *Women* that rarely go Abroad without *Vizard-Masks*, have none of the best Reputation. But when we consider what all this *Art* and *Disguise* are for, it equally heightens the *Wise* Man's *Wonder* and *Aversion*: Perhaps it is to *betray* a Father, a Brother, a Master, a Friend, a Neighbour, or ones own Party.



## Reflections and Maxims ❧

45. A fine Conquest! what Noble *Grecians* and *Romans* abhorr'd: As if Government could not *subsist* without Knavery, and that Knaves were the *Usefullest* Props to it; tho' the basest, as well as greatest, Perversion of the *Ends* of it.

46. But that it should become a *Maxim*, shows but too grossly the Corruption of the Times.

47. I confess I have heard the Stile of a *Useful Knave*, but ever took it to be a silly or a knavish Saying; at least an *Excuse* for Knavery.

49. Besides, Employing Knaves, *Encourages* Knavery instead of punishing it; and *Alienates* the Reward of Virtue. Or, at least, must make the World believe, the Country yields

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

not honest Men enough, able to serve her.

50. Art thou a Magistrate? Prefer such as have *clean* Characters where they live, and of Estates to *secure* a just Discharge of their Trusts; that are under no Temptation to *strain* Points for a Fortune: For sometimes such may be found, *sooner* than they are Employed.

51. Art thou a Private Man? Contract thy Acquaintance in a narrow Compass, and chuse Those for the Subjects of it, that are Men of Principles; such as will make full Stops, where Honour will not lead them on; and that had rather bear the disgrace of not being *thorow Paced* Men, than forfeit their Peace and Reputation by a *base* Compliance.

THE WISE MAN

52. The *Wise* Man Governs himself by the *Reason* of his Case, and because what he does is *Best*: Best, in a Moral and Prudent, not a *Sinister* Sense.

53. He proposes just Ends, and employs the *fairest* and *probablest* Means and Methods to attain them.

54. Though you cannot always penetrate his Design, or his Reasons for it, yet you shall ever see his Actions of a *Piece*, and his Performances like a *Workman*: They will bear the *Touch* of Wisdom and Honour, as often as they are tried.

55. He scorns to serve himself by *Indirect Means*, or be an *Interloper* in Government, since just Enterprises

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

never want any Just *Ways* to succeed them.

56. To do Evil, that Good may come of it, is for *Bunglers* in Politicks, as well as Morals.

57. Like those Surgeons, that will cut off an Arm they can't cure, to *hide* their Ignorance and save their Credit.

58. The *Wise* Man is *Cautious*, but not cunning; *Judicious*, but not Crafty; making Virtue the *Measure* of using his Excellent Understanding in the Conduct of his Life.

59. The *Wise* Man is equal, ready, but not *officious*; has in every Thing an Eye to *Sure Footing*: He offends *no Body*, nor *easily* is offended, and always willing to Compound for *Wrongs*, if not forgive them.

60. He is never Captious, nor Criti-

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

cal; hates *Banter* and *Jests*: He may be Pleasant, but not Light; he never deals but in *Substantial Ware*, and leaves the rest for the *Toy Pates* (or Shops) of the *World*; which are so far from being his Business, that they are not so much as his *Diversion*.

61. He is always for some solid Good, *Civil* or *Moral*; as, to make his Country more *Virtuous*, Preserve her Peace and Liberty, Imploy her Poor, Improve Land, Advance Trade, Suppress Vice, Encourage Industry, and all Mechanick Knowledge; and that they should be the *Care* of the Government, and the Blessing and Praise of the People.

62. To conclude: He is Just, and *fears God*, hates *Covetousness*, and

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

*eschews Evil, and loves his Neighbour as himself.*

### OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THOUGHTS

63. Man being made a Reasonable, and so a *Thinking* Creature, there is nothing more *Worthy* of his Being, than the *Right* Direction and Employment of his Thoughts; since upon *This*, depends both his Usefulness to the Publick, and his own present and future Benefit in all Respects.

64. The Consideration of this, has often obliged me to Lament the Unhappiness of Mankind, that through too great a Mixture and Confusion of Thoughts, have been hardly able to

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

make a Right or a Mature Judgment of Things.

65. To this is owing the various *Uncertainty* and *Confusion* we see in the *World*, and the *Intemperate Zeal* that occasions them.

66. To this also is to be attributed the *imperfect* Knowledge we have of Things, and the slow Progress we make in attaining to a Better ; like the Children of *Israel* that were *forty* Years upon their Journey, from *Egypt* to *Canaan*, which might have been performed in *Less* than One.

67. In fine, 'tis to this that we ought to ascribe, if not all, at least most of the Infelicities we Labour under.

68. *Clear* therefore thy Head, and *Rally*, and *Manage* thy Thoughts *Rightly*, and thou wilt *Save* Time, and

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

*See and Do thy Business Well; for thy Judgment will be Distinct, thy Mind Free, and the Faculties Strong and Regular.*

69. Always remember to *bound* thy Thoughts to the *present* Occasion.

70. If it be thy Religious Duty, suffer nothing else to *Share* in them. And if any Civil or Temporal Affair, observe the same Caution, and thou wilt be a *whole* Man to every Thing, and do *twice* the Business in the same Time.

71. If any Point over-Labours thy Mind, divert and relieve it, by some other Subject, of a more *Sensible*, or Manual Nature, rather than what may affect the Understanding; for this were to write one Thing *upon* another,



## Reflections and Maxims ❧

which *blots out* our former Impressions, or renders them *illegible*.

72. *They* that are least divided in their Care, always give the best Account of their Business.

73. As therefore thou art always to pursue the *present* Subject, till thou hast master'd it, so if it fall out that thou hast more Affairs than one upon thy Hand, be sure to *prefer* that which is of *most Moment*, and will *least* wait thy Leisure.

74. He that Judges not well of the Importance of his Affairs, though he may be always *Busy*, he must make but a *small* Progress.

75. But make not more Business necessary than is so; and rather *lessen* than augment *Work* for thy self.

76. Nor yet be *over-eager* in pursuit

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

of any Thing; for the Mercurial too often happen to leave *Judgment* behind them, and sometimes make Work for *Repentance*.

77. He that *over-runs* his Business, leaves it for him that follows more leisurely to take it up; which has often proved a profitable Harvest -to them that never Sow'd.

78. 'Tis the Advantage that slower Tempers have upon the Men of lively Parts, that tho' they don't lead, they will *Follow well, and Glean Clean*.

79. Upon the whole Matter, Employ thy Thoughts as thy Business requires, and let that have Place according to Merit and Urgency; giving every Thing a Review and due Digestion, and thou wilt prevent many Errors and Vexations, as well as save much

## Reflections and Maxims ❀

Time to thy self in the Course of thy Life.

### OF ENVY

80. It is the Mark of an ill Nature, to *lessen* good Actions, and *aggravate* ill Ones.

81. Some men do as much *begrutch* others a good Name, as they want one themselves; and perhaps *that* is the Reason of it.

82. But certainly they are in the Wrong, that can think they are lessened, because others have their *Due*.

83. Such People generally have less Merit than Ambition, that *Covet* the Reward of other Men's; and to be sure a very ill Nature, that will rather *Rob* others of their Due, than allow them their Praise.

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

84. It is more an Error of our Will, than our Judgment: For we know it to be an Effect of our *Passion*, not our Reason; and therefore we are the more culpable in our *Partial* Estimates.

85. It is as Envious as Unjust, to *underrate* another's Actions- where their intrinsick *Worth* recommends them to disengaged Minds.

86. Nothing shews more the Folly, as well as Fraud of Man, than *Clipping* of Merit and Reputation.

87. And as some Men think it an *Allay* to themselves, that others have their Right; so they know no End of *Pilfering* to raise their own Credit.

88. This Envy is the Child of *Pride*, and Misgives, rather than Mistakes.

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

89. It will have Charity, to be *Ostentation*; Sobriety, *Covetousness*; Humility, *Craft*; Bounty, *Popularity*: In short, Virtue must be *Design*, and Religion, only *Interest*. Nay, the best of Qualities must not pass without a *BUT* to allay their Merit and abate their Praise. *Basest* of Tempers! and they that have them, the *Worst* of Men!

90. But Just and Noble Minds Rejoice in other Men's Success, and *help* to augment their Praise.

91. And indeed they are not without a Love to Virtue, that take a Satisfaction in seeing her Rewarded, and such deserve to *share* her Character that do *abhor* to *lessen* it.

OF MAN'S LIFE

92. Why is Man *less* durable than the Works of his Hands, but because *This is not* the Place of his Rest?

93. And it is a Great and Just Reproach upon him, that he should *fix* his Mind where he cannot *stay* himself.

94. Were it not more his *Wisdom* to be concerned about those *Works* that will go with him, and erect a Mansion for him where Time has Power neither over him nor it?

95. 'Tis a sad Thing for *Man* so often to miss his Way to his *Best*, as well as most Lasting Home.

OF AMBITION

96. They that soar too high, often fall *hard*; which makes a *low* and level Dwelling preferable.

97. The tallest Trees are most in the Power of the *Winds*, and Ambitious *Men* of the Blasts of Fortune.

98. They are *most* seen and observed, and most envied: Least Quiet, but most talk'd of, and not often to their Advantage.

99. Those Buildings had need of a good Foundation, that lie so much exposed to *Weather*.

100. Good *Works* are a *Rock*, that will support their Credit; but Ill Ones a Sandy Foundation that *Yields* to Calamities.

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

101. And truly they ought to expect no Pity in their Fall, that when in Power had no *Bowels* for the Unhappy.

102. The worst of Distempers; always Craving and Thirsty, Restless and Hated: A perfect *Delirium* in the Mind: *Insufferable* in Success, and in Disappointments most *Revengeful*. .

### OF PRAISE or APPLAUSE

103. We are too apt to love *Praise*, but not to *Deserve* it.

104. But if we would *Deserve* it, we must love *Virtue* more than That.

105. As there is no Passion in us sooner moved, or more deceivable, so for that Reason there is none over which we ought to be more *Watchful*,



## Reflections and Maxims ❧

whether we give or receive it: For if we give it, we must be sure to mean it, and measure it too.

106. If we are *Penurious*, it shows *Emulation*; if we exceed, *Flattery*.

107. *Good Measure* belongs to Good Actions; more looks Nauseous, as well as Insincere; besides, 'tis a *Persecuting* of the Meritorious, who are out of Countenance to *hear*, what they deserve.

108. It is much *easier* for him to merit Applause, than *hear* of it: And he never doubts himself more, or the Person that gives it, than when he *hears so much* of it.

109. But to say true, there needs not *many* Cautions on this Hand, since the *World* is rarely *just enough* to the Deserving.

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

110. However, we cannot be too Circumspect *how* we receive Praise: For if we contemplate our selves in a *false* Glass, we are sure to be *mistaken* about our Dues; and because we are too apt to believe what is Pleasing, rather than what is True, we may be too easily swell'd, beyond our just Proportion, by the *Windy* Compliments of Men.

111. Make ever therefore *Allowances* for what is said on such Occasions, or thou Exposest, as well as Deceivest thy self.

112. For an Over-value of our selves, gives us but a dangerous Security in many Respects.

113. We expect more than belongs to us; take all that's given us though never meant us; and fall out with

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

those that are not as *full of us* as we are of our selves.

114. In short, 'tis a Passion that abuses our Judgment, and makes us both Unsafe and Ridiculous.

115. Be not *fond* therefore of Praise, but *seek* Virtue that leads to it.

116. And yet no more *lessen* or *dissemble* thy Merit, than over-rate it: For tho' Humility be a Virtue, an affected one is none.

### OF CONDUCT in SPEECH

117. Enquire *often*, but Judge *rarely*, and thou wilt not often be mistaken.

118. It is safer to Learn, than teach; and who conceals his Opinion, has *nothing* to Answer for.

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

119. Vanity or Resentment often engage us, and 'tis two to one but we come off Losers; for one shews a Want of *Judgment* and *Humility*, as the other does of *Temper* and *Discretion*.

120. Not that I admire the *Reserved*; for they are next to *Unnatural* that are not Communicable. But if Reservedness be at any Time a Virtue, 'tis in *Throngs* or *ill* Company.

121. Beware also of *Affectation in Speech*; it often wrongs *Matter*, and ever shows a *blind* Side.

122. Speak properly, and in as few Words as you can, but always *plainly*; for the End of Speech is not Ostentation, but to be understood.

123. They that affect Words more

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

than Matter, will *dry* up that little they have.

124. *Sense* never fails to give them that have it, *Words* enough to make them understood.

125. But it too often happens in some Conversations, as in *Apothecary-Shops*, that those Pots that are *Empty*, or have Things of small Value in them, are as *gaudily Dress'd* and *Flourish'd*, as those that are full of precious Drugs.

126. This Labouring of slight Matter with flourish'd Turns of Expression, is fulsome, and worse than the *Modern Imitation* of Tapestry, and *East-India* Goods, in Stuffs and Linens. In short, 'tis but *Taudry* Talk, and next to very Trash.

UNION of FRIENDS

127. They that love *beyond* the *World*, cannot be separated by it.

128. Death cannot kill, what *never* dies.

129. Nor can Spirits ever be divided that love and live in the *same* Divine Principle; the *Root* and *Record* of their Friendship.

130. If Absence be not Death, neither is theirs.

131. Death is but *Crossing* the *World*, as Friends do the Seas; They live in one another still.

132. For they must needs be present, that love and live in that which is *Omnipresent*.

133. In this Divine Glass, they see

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

Face to Face; and their Converse is *Free*, as well as *Pure*.

134. This is the Comfort of Friends, that though they may be said to *Die*, yet their Friendship and Society are, in the best Sense, ever present, because *Immortal*.

### OF being EASY in LIVING

135. 'Tis a Happiness to be delivered from a *Curious* Mind, as well as from a Dainty Palate.

136. For it is not only a Troublesome but *Slavish* Thing to be *Nice*.

137. They *narrow* their own Freedom and Comforts, that make *so much* requisite to enjoy them.

138. To be *Easy* in Living, is much

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

of the *Pleasure* of Life: But difficult Tempers will always want it.

139. A *Careless* and *Homely* Breeding is therefore preferable to one Nice and Delicate.

140. And he that is taught to live upon a *little*, owes more to his Father's *Wisdom*, than he that has a great deal left him, does to his Father's Care.

141. Children can't well be too hardly Bred: For besides that it *fits* them to bear the *Roughest* Providences, it is more *Masculine*, Active and Healthy.

142. Nay, 'tis certain, that the *Liberty* of the Mind is mightily preserved by it: For so 'tis served, instead of being a Servant, indeed a Slave to sensual Delicacies.



## Reflections and Maxims ❧

143. As Nature is soon answered,  
so are such *satisfied*.

144. The Memory of the Ancients  
is hardly in any Thing more to be celebrated,  
than in a *Strict and Useful Institution of Youth*.

145. By *Labour* they prevented  
*Luxury* in their young People, till  
*Wisdom* and Philosophy had taught  
them to *Resist* and *Despise* it.

146. It must be therefore a gross  
Fault to strive so hard for the Pleasure  
of our Bodies, and be so insensible  
and careless of the *Freedom* of our  
Souls.

### OF MAN'S INCONSIDERATE - NESS and PARTIALITY

147. 'Tis very observable, if our  
Civil Rights are invaded or incroach'd

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

upon, we are mightily *touch'd*, and *fill* every Place with our Resentment and Complaint; while we suffer ourselves, our *Better* and Nobler Selves, to be the *Property* and Vassals of Sin, the *worst* of Invaders.

148. *In vain* do we expect to be delivered from such Troubles, till we are delivered from the *Cause* of them, our Disobedience to God.

149. When he has his *Dues* from us, it will be *time enough* for Him to give us ours out of one another.

150. 'Tis our great Happiness, if we could understand it, that we meet with such *Checks* in the *Career* of our worldly Enjoyments, lest we should *Forget* the Giver, adore the Gift, and *terminate* our *Felicity* here, which is not Man's *ultimate* Bliss.

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

151. Our Losses are often made *Judgments* by our *Guilt*, and *Mercies* by our *Repentance*.

152. Besides, it argues great Folly in Men to let their Satisfaction exceed the *true Value* of any Temporal Matter: For Disappointments are not always to be measured by the Loss of the Thing, but the *Over-value* we put upon it.

153. And thus Men improve their own Miseries, for want of an Equal and Just Estimate of what they Enjoy or Lose.

154. There lies a *Proviso* upon every Thing in this World, and we must observe it at our own Peril, *viz.* *To love God above all*, and Act for *Judgment*, the *Last* I mean.

OF the RULE of JUDGING

155. In all Things *Reason* should prevail: 'Tis quite another Thing to be *stiff* than steady in an Opinion.

156. This may be Reasonable, but that is ever *Wilful*.

157. In such Cases it always happens, that the clearer the Argument, the *greater* the Obstinacy, where the *Design* is not to be convinced.

158. This is to value Humour more than Truth, and prefer a *sullen Pride* to a reasonable Submission.

159. 'Tis the Glory of a Man to *vail* to Truth; as it is the Mark of a good Nature to be *Easily* entreated.

160. Beasts Act by Sense, Man should by *Reason*; else he is a greater Beast than ever God made: And the

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

Proverb is verified, The Corruption of the best Things is the worst and most offensive.

161. A reasonable Opinion must ever be in Danger, where Reason is not Judge.

162. Though there is a Regard due to Education, and the Tradition of our Fathers, Truth will ever *deserve*, as well as claim the Preference.

163. If like *Theophilus* and *Timothy*, we have been brought up in the Knowledge of the best Things, 'tis our Advantage: But neither they nor we *lose* by trying their Truth; for so we learn their, as well as its *intrinsick Worth*.

164. Truth never lost Ground by Enquiry, because she is *most of all Reasonable*.

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

165. Nor can that need another Authority, that is *Self-evident*.

166. If my own Reason be *on the Side* of a Principle, *with what* can I Dispute or withstand it?

167. And if Men would once consider one another reasonably, they would either reconcile their Differences, or *more Amicably* maintain them.

168. Let That therefore be the Standard, that has *most to say* for itself; Tho' of that let *every Man* be Judge for himself.

169. Reason, like the *Sun*, is *Common* to All; And 'tis for want of examining all *by the same* Light and Measure, that we are not all of the *same* Mind: For all have it to that End, though all do not use it *So*.

OF FORMALITY

170. Form is Good, but not *Formality*.

171. In the Use of the best of Forms there is too much of that I fear.

172. 'Tis absolutely necessary, that this Distinction should go along with People in their Devotion; for too many are apter to rest upon *What* they do, than *How* they do their Duty.

173. If it were considered, that it is the *Frame* of the Mind that gives our Performances Acceptance, *we* would lay more Stress on our *Inward* Preparation than our Outward Action.

OF the mean NOTION we have of  
GOD

174. Nothing more shews the low Condition Man is fallen into, than the *unsuitable* Notion we must have of God, by the *Ways* we take to please him.

175. As if it availed any Thing to him that we performed so many Ceremonies and external Forms of Devotion, who never meant more by them, than to try our Obedience, and through them, to shew us something *more Excellent and Durable* beyond them.

176. Doing, while we are *Undoing*, is good for nothing.

177. Of what Benefit is it to say our *Prayers* regularly, go to *Church*, re-



## Reflections and Maxims ❧

ceive the *Sacraments*, and may be go to *Confessions* too; ay, *Feast* the Priest, and give *Alms* to the Poor, and yet *Lye*, *Swear*, *Curse*, be *Drunk*, *Covetous*, *Unclean*, *Proud*, *Revengeful*, *Vain* and *Idle* at the same Time?

178. Can one excuse or ballance the other? Or will God think himself well served, where his Law is *Violated*? Or well used, where there is so much more *Shew* than Substance?

179. 'Tis a most dangerous Error for a Man to think to excuse himself in the Breach of a Moral Duty, by a *Formal* Performance of *Positive Worship*; and less when of Human Invention.

180. Our Blessed Saviour most rightly and clearly distinguished and determined this Case, when he told the

*Jews*, that they were his *Mother*, his *Brethren* and *Sisters*, who did the *Will* of his Father.

OF the BENEFIT of JUSTICE

181. Justice is a great Support of Society, because an *Insurance* to all Men of their Property: This violated, there's no Security, which throws all into *Confusion* to recover it.

182. An Honest Man is a fast *Pledge* in Dealing. A Man is *Sure* to have it if it be *to be had*.

183. Many are so, meerly of *Necessity*: Others not so only for the same Reason: But such an honest Man is *not* to be thanked, and such a dishonest Man is to be *pity'd*.

184. But he that is dishonest for

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

Gain, is *next* to a Robber, and to be punish'd for Example.

185. And indeed there are *few* Dealers, but what are Faulty, which makes Trade *Difficult*, and a great *Temptation* to Men of *Virtue*.

186. 'Tis not what they *should*, but what they *can* get: Faults or Decays must be concealed: Big Words given, where they are not deserved, and the Ignorance or Necessity of the Buyer imposed upon for unjust Profit.

187. These are the Men that keep their Words for their own Ends, and are only Just for Fear of the Magistrate.

188. A *Politick* rather than a Moral Honesty; a *constrained*, not a chosen Justice: According to the Proverb,

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

*Patience per Force, and thank you for nothing.*

189. But of all Justice, that is the greatest, that passes under the Name of Law. A Cut-Purse in *Westminster-Hall* exceeds; for that advances Injustice to Oppression, where Law is alledged for that which it should punish.

### OF JEALOUSY

190. The Jealous are Troublesome to others, but a *Torment* to themselves.

191. Jealousy is a kind of *Civil War* in the Soul, where *Judgment* and *Imagination* are at perpetual *Jars*.

192. This *Civil Dissension* in the Mind, like that of the Body Politick,

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

commits great Disorders, and lays all waste.

193. Nothing stands safe in its *Way: Nature, Interest, Religion*, must Yield to its Fury.

194. It violates *Contracts*, Dissolves *Society*, Breaks *Wedlock*, Betrays *Friends* and *Neighbours*. *No Body* is Good, and every one is either doing or designing them a *Mischief*.

195. It has a *Venome* that more or less rankles wherever it bites: And as it reports Fancies for Facts, so it *disturbs* its *own* House as often as other Folks.

196. Its Rise is *Guilt* or *Ill Nature*, and by Reflection thinks its own Faults to be other Men's; as he that's over-run with the *Jaundice* takes others to be *Yellow*.

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

197. A Jealous Man only sees his *own Spectrum*, when he looks upon other Men, and gives his Character in theirs.

### OF STATE

198. I love Service, but not *State*; One is Useful, the other is *Superfluous*.

199. The *Trouble* of this, as well as Charge, is Real; but the Advantage only Imaginary.

200. Besides, it helps to set us up *above our selves*, and Augments our Temptation to Disorder.

201. The *Least* Thing out of Joint, or omitted, make us uneasy: and we are ready to think our selves ill served, about that which is of no real Service at all: Or so much better than

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

other Men, as we have the Means of greater State.

202. But this is all for want of *Wisdom*, which carries the *truest* and most forceable *State* along with it.

203. He that makes not himself *Cheap* by indiscreet Conversation, puts Value enough upon himself every where.

204. The other is rather Pageantry than State.

### OF a GOOD SERVANT

205. A True, and a Good Servant, are the same Thing.

206. But no *Servant* is True to his Master, that Defrauds him.

207. Now there are many Ways of Defrauding a Master, as, of *Time*,

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

*Care, Pains, Respect, and Reputation,*  
as well as *Money*.

208. He that Neglects his Work, Robs his Master, since he is Fed and Paid as if he did his Best; and he that is not as Diligent in the Absence, as in the Presence of his Master, cannot be a true Servant.

209. Nor is he a true Servant, that buys dear to *share* in the Profit with the Seller.

210. Nor yet he that tells Tales without Doors; or deals basely in his Master's Name with other People; or Connives at others Loyterings, Wasteings, or dishonourable Reflections.

211. So that a true *Servant* is *Diligent, Secret, and Respectful*: More



## Reflections and Maxims ❧

*Tender* of his Master's Honour and Interest, than of his own Profit.

212. Such a *Servant* deserves well, and if Modest under his Merit, should liberally feel it at his Master's Hand.

### OF an immediate PURSUIT of the WORLD

213. It shews a *Depraved* State of Mind, to *Cark* and Care for that which one does not need.

214. Some are as eager to be *Rich*, as ever they were to Live: For *Superfluity*, as for Subsistence.

215. But that *Plenty* should augment *Covetousness*, is a *Perversion* of Providence; and yet the Generality are the *worse* for their Riches.

216. But it is strange, that *Old*

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

Men should excel: For generally Money lies nearest them that are nearest their *Graves*: As if they would augment their Love in Proportion to the *little* Time they have left to enjoy it: And yet their Pleasure is without Enjoyment, since none enjoy what they do *not use*.

217. So that instead of learning to leave their great Wealth easily, they hold the *Faster*, because they must leave it: So *Sordid* is the Temper of some Men.

218. Where *Charity* keeps Pace with Gain, Industry is blessed: But to slave to get, and keep it *Sordidly*, is a *Sin* against *Providence*, a Vice in *Government*, and an Injury to their *Neighbours*.

219. Such are they as spend not one

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

*Fifth* of their Income, and, it may be, give not one *Tenth* of what they spend to the Needy.

220. This is the *worst* Sort of Idolatry, because there can be *no Religion* in it, nor Ignorance pleaded in *Excuse* of it; and that it wrongs other Folks that ought to have a *Share* therein.

### OF the INTEREST of the PUBLICK in our ESTATES

221. *Hardly* any Thing is given us for our *Selves*, but the Publick may claim a *Share* with us. But of all we call ours, we are *most accountable* to God and the Publick for our Estates: In this we are but *Stewards*, and to

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

*Hord* up all to ourselves is great *Injustice* as well as *Ingratitude*.

222. If all Men were so far *Tenants* to the Publick, that the *Superfluities* of Gain and Expence were applied to the *Exigencies* thereof, it would put an *End* to Taxes, leave never a Beggar, and make the greatest *Bank* for National Trade in *Europe*.

223. It is a *Judgment* upon us, as well as *Weakness*, tho' we won't see it, to begin at the *wrong* End.

224. If the Taxes we give are not to maintain *Pride*, I am sure there would be less, if *Pride* were made a *Tax* to the Government.

225. I confess I have wondered that so many Lawful and Useful Things are Excised by Laws, and *Pride* left

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

to *Reign Free* over them and the Publick.

226. But since People are more afraid of the *Laws* of Man than of God, because their Punishment seems to be *nearest*: I know not how Magistrates can be excused in their suffering such *Excess* with *Impunity*. ;

227. Our Noble *English Patriarchs* as well as *Patriots*, were so sensible of this Evil, that they made several excellent Laws, commonly called *Sump-tuary*, to *Forbid*, at least *Limit* the *Pride* of the People ; which because the Execution of them would be our Interest and Honour, their Neglect must be our just Reproach and Loss.

228. 'Tis but Reasonable that the Punishment of *Pride* and Excess should help to *support* the Govern-

## ✧ Reflections and Maxims

ment, since it must otherwise inevitably be ruined *by them*.

229. But some say, *It ruins Trade*, and will make the *Poor* Burthensome to the Publick; But if such Trade in Consequence ruins the Kingdom, is it not Time to ruin that Trade? Is Moderation no Part of our Duty, and Temperance an *Enemy* to Government?

230. He is a *Judas* that will get Money by any Thing.

231. To *wink* at a Trade that effeminates the People, and invades the Ancient Discipline of the Kingdom, is a Crime Capital, and to be severely punish'd instead of being *excused* by the *Magistrate*.

232. Is there no *better* Employment

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

for the Poor than *Luxury*? *Miserable Nation!*

233. What did they before they fell into these *forbidden* Methods? Is there not Land enough in *England* to Cultivate, and more and better Manufactures to be Made?

234. Have we no Room for them in our *Plantations*, about Things that may augment *Trade*, without *Luxury*?

235. In short, let *Pride* pay, and *Excess* be *well Excised*: And if that will *Cure* the People, it will *help to Keep the Kingdom*.

### THE VAIN MAN

236. But a *Vain* Man is a *Nauseous* Creature: He is so *full of himself* that

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

he has *no Room* for any Thing else, be it never so Good or Deserving.

237. 'Tis *I* at every turn that *does* this, or *can* do that. And as he abounds in his *Comparisons*, so he is sure to give himself the *better* of *every Body* else; according to the Proverb, *All his Geese are Swans*.

238. They are certainly to be pity'd that can be so much *mistaken* at *Home*.

239. And yet I have sometimes thought that such People are in a sort Happy, that nothing can put *out of Countenance* with themselves, though they neither have nor merit other Peoples.

240. But at the same Time one would wonder they should not *feel* the Blows they give themselves, or get



## Reflections and Maxims ❧

from others, for this intolerable and ridiculous *Temper*; nor shew any Concern at that which makes others *blush* for, as well as at them, (*viz.*) their *unreasonable* Assurance.

241. To be a Man's *own* Fool is bad enough, but the Vain Man is *Every Body's*.

242. This silly Disposition comes of a Mixture of *Ignorance*, *Confidence*, and *Pride*; and as there is more or less of the last, so it is more or less offensive or Entertaining.

243. And yet perhaps the worst Part of this Vanity is it's *Unteachableness*. Tell it any Thing, and it has known it long ago; and out-runs Information and Instruction, or else proudly *puffs* at it.

244. Whereas the greatest Under-

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

standings doubt most, are readiest to learn, and least pleas'd with themselves; this, with *no Body else*.

245. For tho' they stand on *higher* Ground, and so see *farther* than their Neighbours, they are yet *humbled* by their Prospect, since it shews them something, *so much higher* and above their Reach.

246. And truly then it is, that Sense shines with the greatest Beauty when it is set in *Humility*.

247. An *humble* able Man is a *Jewel* worth a Kingdom: It is often saved by him, as *Solomon's Poor Wise Man* did the City.

248. May we have more of *them*, or less *Need* of them.

## THE CONFORMIST

249. It is reasonable to concur where Conscience does not forbid a Compliance; for Conformity is at least a Civil Virtue.

250. But we should only press it in *Necessaries*, the rest may prove a *Snare* and Temptation to *break* Society.

251. But above all, it is a *Weakness* in Religion and Government, where it is carried to Things of an Indifferent Nature, since besides that it makes Way for Scruples, Liberty is always the *Price* of it.

252. Such Conformists have little to *boast* of, and therefore the less Reason

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

to Reproach others that have more Latitude.

253. And yet the *Latitudinarian* that I love, is one that is only so in Charity; for the Freedom I recommend is no *Scepticism* in Judgment, and much less so in Practice.

### THE OBLIGATIONS of GREAT MEN to ALMIGHTY GOD

254. It seems but reasonable, that those whom God has *Distinguish'd* from others; by his *Goodness*, should distinguish themselves to him by their *Gratitude*.

255. For tho' he has made of *One* Blood all Nations, he has not rang'd or dignified them upon the *Level*, but

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

in a sort of Subordination and Depend-  
ency.

256. If we look upwards, we find it in the Heavens, where the *Planets* have their several Degrees of Glory, and so the other *Stars* of Magnitude and Lustre.

257. If we look upon the Earth, we see it among the *Trees* of the Wood, from the *Cedar* to the *Bramble*; in the *Waters* among the *Fish*, from the *Leviathan* to the *Sprat*; in the *Air* among the *Birds*, from the *Eagle* to the *Sparrow*; among the *Beasts*, from the *Lyon* to the *Cat*; and among *Mankind* it self, from the *King* to the *Scavenger*.

258. Our Great Men, doubtless, were designed by the *Wise* Framer of the World for our *Religious, Moral*

and *Politick* Planets; for *Lights* and *Directions* to the lower Ranks of the numerous Company of their own Kind, both in Precepts and Examples; and they are well paid for their Pains too, who have the Honour and Service of their fellow Creatures, and the *Mar-row* and *Fat* of the Earth for their Share.

259. But is it not a most unaccountable Folly, that Men should be *Proud* of the Providences that should *Humble* them? Or think the *Better* of themselves, instead of *Him* that raised them so much above the Level; or in being so in their Lives, in Return of his Extraordinary Favours.

260. But it is but too near *a-kin* to us, to think no further than *our selves*, either in the *Acquisition*, or *Use* of

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

our Wealth and Greatness ; when, alas, they are the *Preferments of Heaven*, to try our *Wisdom*, Bounty and Gratitude.

261. 'Tis a dangerous Perversion of the End of Providence to *Consume* the *Time*, *Power* and *Wealth* he has given us above other Men, to gratify our *Sordid Passions*, instead of playing the good Stewards, to the Honour of our great Benefactor, and the Good of our Fellow-Creatures.

262. But it is an Injustice too ; since those Higher Ranks of Men are but the *Trustees* of Heaven for the Benefit of lesser Mortals, who, as *Minors*, are intituled to all their Care and Provision.

263. For though God has dignified some Men above their Brethren, it

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

never was to serve their Pleasures, but that they might take Pleasure to serve the Publick.

264. For this Cause doubtless it was, that they were raised above Necessity or any Trouble to Live, that they might have more Time and Ability to Care for Others: And 'tis certain, where that *Use* is not made of the Bounties of Providence, they are *Imbezzell'd* and Wasted.

265. It has often struck me with a serious Reflection, when I have observed the great Inequality of the World; that *one* Man should have *such Numbers* of his fellow Creatures to *Wait* upon him, who have Souls to be saved as well as he; and this not for Business, but *State*. Certainly a



## Reflections and Maxims ❖

poor Employment of his Money, and a worse of their Time.

266. But that any one Man should make Work for so many; or rather keep them from *Work*, to make up a *Train*, has a *Levity* and *Luxury* in it very reprobable, both in Religion and Government.

267. But even in allowable Services it has an humbling Consideration, and what should raise the Thankfulness of the Great Men to him that has so much better'd their Circumstances, and *Moderated* the Use of their Dominion over those of their own Kind.

268. When the poor *Indians* hear us call any of our Family by the Name of *Servants*, they cry out, *What, call Brethren Servants!* We call our *Dogs* Servants, but never *Men*. The *Moral*

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

certainly can do us no Harm, but may Instruct us to *abate* our Height, and *narrow* our *State* and Attendance.

269. And what has been said of their Excess, may in some measure be apply'd to other Branches of Luxury, that set *ill Examples* to the lesser World, and *Rob* the Needy of their Pensions.

270. GOD Almighty *Touch* the Hearts of our *Grandeess* with a Sense of his *Distinguish'd* Goodness, and that true End of it; that they may better distinguish themselves in their Conduct, to the Glory of Him that has thus liberally Preferr'd them, and the Benefit of their fellow Creatures.

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

### OF REFINING upon other MEN'S ACTIONS or INTERESTS

271. This seems to be the *Master-Piece* of our Politicians: But no Body shoots more at *Random*, than those Refiners.

272. A perfect *Lottery*, and meer *Hap-Hazard*. Since the true Spring of the Actions of Men is as *Invisible* as their Hearts; and so are their *Thoughts* too of their several Interests.

273. He that judges of other Men by himself, does not always hit the Mark, because all Men have not the same Capacity, nor *Passions* in Interest.

274. If an *able* Man refines upon

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

the Proceedings of an *ordinary* Capacity, according to his own, he must ever miss it: But much more the ordinary Man, when he shall pretend to speculate the *Motives* to the Able Man's Actions: For the Able Man deceives himself by making t'other wiser than he is in the Reason of his Conduct; and the ordinary Man makes himself so, in presuming to judge of the Reasons of the Abler Man's Actions.

275. 'Tis in short a *Wood*, a *Maze*; and of nothing are we more *uncertain*, nor in any Thing do we oftener *befoo*l our selves.

276. The Mischiefs are many that follow this Humour, and dangerous: For Men *Misguide* themselves, act upon *false Measures*, and meet fre-

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

quently with *mischievous Disappointments*.

277. It excludes all *Confidence* in Commerce; allows of no such Thing as a *Principle* in Practice; supposes every Man to act upon other Reasons than what appears, and that there is no such Thing as a *Straightness* or *Sincerity* among Mankind: A Trick instead of Truth.

278. Neither, allowing Nature or Religion; but some Worldly Fetch or Advantage: The true, the hidden Motive to all Men to act or do.

279. 'Tis hard to express its *Uncharitableness*, as well as *Uncertainty*; and has more of *Vanity* than Benefit in it.

280. This Foolish Quality gives a

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

large Field, but let what I have said serve for this Time.

### OF CHARITY

281. Charity has various Senses, but is *Excellent* in all of them.

282. It imports; first, the *Commiseration* of the Poor, and Unhappy of Mankind, and extends an *Helping-Hand* to mend their Condition.

283. They that feel nothing of this, are at best not above *half* of Kin to Human Race; since they must have *no Bowels*, which makes such an *Essential* Part thereof, who have no more Nature.

284. A Man, and yet not have the Feeling of the *Wants* or *Needs* of his own Flesh and Blood! A *Monster*

## Reflections and Maxims ❧

rather! And may he never be suffer'd to propagate such an unnatural Stock in the *World*.

285. Such an Uncharitableness *spoils* the best Gains, and two to one but it entails a Curse upon the Possessors.

286. Nor can we expect to be heard of God in our *Prayers*, that turn the *deaf Ear* to the Petitions of the Distressed amongst our fellow Creatures.

287. God sends the Poor to *try* us, as well as he tries them by being such: And he that refuses them a little out of the great deal that God has given him, *Lays up Poverty* in Store for his own Posterity.

288. I will not say these Works are *Meritorious*, but dare say they are *Acceptable*, and go not without their

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

Reward: Tho' to Humble us in our Fulness and Liberality too, we only Give but what is given us to *Give* as well as use; for if we are *not our own*, less is *that so* which God has intrusted us with.

289. Next, CHARITY makes the *best* Construction of *Things* and *Persons*, and is so far from being an evil Spy, a Back-biter, or a Detractor, that it *excuses Weakness*, *extenuates* Miscarriages, makes the *best* of every Thing; forgives *every Body*, serves *All*, and hopes to the *End*.

290. It *moderates* Extreams, is always for *Expediencies*, *labours* to *accommodate* Differences, and had rather *Suffer* than *Revenge*: And so far from *Exacting* the *utmost Farthing*, that it



## Reflections and Maxims ❧

had rather *lose* than seek her Own  
*Violently*.

291. As it acts Freely, so, *Zealously*  
too; but 'tis always to *do Good*, for  
it hurts *no Body*.

292. An *Universal Remedy* against  
Discord, and an *Holy Cement* for  
Mankind.

293. And *lastly*, 'Tis *Love to God*  
*and the Brethren*, which raises the  
Soul *above* all worldly Considerations;  
and, as it gives a *Taste* of Heaven  
*upon* Earth, so 'tis *Heaven* in the Ful-  
ness of it hereafter to the truly Chari-  
table here.

294. This is the *Noblest* Sense  
Charity has, after which all should  
press, as that more *Excellent Way*.

295. Nay, *most* Excellent; for as  
*Faith, Hope* and *Charity* were the

## ✻ Reflections and Maxims

more Excellent *Way* that Great Apostle discovered to the *Christians*, (too apt to stick in *Outward Gifts* and *Church Performances*) so of that better *Way* he preferred *Charity* as the *best* Part, because it would *out-last* the rest, and abide for ever.

296. Wherefore a Man can never be a true and good *Christian* without *Charity*, even in the lowest Sense of it: And yet he may have that Part thereof, and still be none of the Apostle's *true Christian*, since he tells us, That tho' we should give all our Goods to the Poor, and *want Charity* (in her other and higher Senses) *it would profit us nothing*.

297. Nay, tho' we had *All Tongues*, *All Knowledge*, and even *Gifts of Prophecy*, and were *Preachers* to

others; ay, and had Zeal enough to *give our Bodies to be burned*, yet if we *wanted Charity*, it would not avail us for Salvation.

298. It seems it was his (and indeed ought to be our) *Unum Necessarium*, or the One Thing Needful, which our Saviour attributed to *Mary in Preference* to her Sister *Martha*, that seems not to have wanted the lesser Parts of Charity.

299. Would God this Divine Virtue were more *implanted and diffused* among Mankind, the *Pretenders to Christianity* especially, and we should certainly mind *Piety more than Controversy*, and *Exercise Love and Compassion instead of Censuring and Persecuting one another in any Manner whatsoever*.



